The Semaphore

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THE VALENTINE ISSUE

CHINATOWN: A DRAMATIC JOURNEY

PART TWO OF A THREE-PART SERIES

by Howard Wong, AIA

Note: You are about to start Part Two of Howard Wong's three-part series on Chinatown. If you've not read Part One, you might want to look at the previous issue of *The Semaphore* (Fall 2018), available online at *www.thd.org/semaphore*.

Shaking Chinatown's Foundation: The 1906 Great Earthquake

At 5:13 am Wednesday, April 18, 1906, the Great Quake of 47 seconds razed Chinatown to rubble and smoldering ash. Of the thousands living in densely-packed blocks, the number of deaths is unknown. On Sunday, April 22, remaining Chinatown residents were moved to a special North Beach relief camp.

Meanwhile, city officials, having established the "Subcommittee for Relocating the Chinese," hoped to move Chinatown and the Chinese to a new location. Several factors precipitated this: Chinatown's real estate was becoming increasingly lucrative for downtown commercial interests and the historical hostility toward the Chinese intensified in the days following the quake. Including neither Chinese residents nor merchants in their discussion, the Subcommittee selected Hunter's Point—mud flats on the southern outskirts of the city—as Chinatown's destination. That plan was challenged because the City would lose substantial tax dollars, likely to adjacent municipalities, that Chinese paid into the City's coffers. The North Beach relief camp had been moved to the Presidio golf course, possibly a permanent Chinatown location. But Presidio residents protested, and the few remaining Chinese refugees were moved to far reaches of the Presidio.

At the same time, with no police or military protection, Chinatown was being looted. The mistreatment of the San Francisco Chinese reached such unashamed magnitudes that Los Angeles' city officials offered them a new home. But amidst all the controversy, the few Chinese-Chinatown landowners had already begun reconstruction.

Ruins near Portsmouth Square, 1906.
Photo: Courtesy Bancroft Library via Calisphere.org

CHINATOWN: PERSEVERANCE AND RESILIENCY

The Rebuilding of a Community

Stiff resistance from the Chinese Consulate, fear of losing China trade/tax revenues/port revenues, and quick action on the part of leading Chinese merchants led to the rebuilding of Chinatown in its original location. American-born entrepreneur Look Tin Eli took the lead in creating the pseudo-Chinese façade that would become Chinatown's distinctive landmark and defining imagery. He hired Ross and Bungren, Architects and Engineers, to design the 1910 Sing Chong Bazaar at the northwest corner of Grant Avenue and California Street, instructing the architects to make it look "emphatically oriental." They placed a majestic pagoda tower on top of the four-story building, decorating the exterior with Chinese colors and motifs. Merchant Tong Bong followed Look Tin Eli's lead and had Ross and Bungren design the 1915 Sing Fat Bazaar across the street, with a pagoda tower and dragon trademarks. At Grant Avenue's south end, the two corner buildings served as gateways to the new Oriental City. An architectural palette was established: stately Edwardian architecture decorated with Chinese symbolism, colors, balconies, and rooflines. This was a declaration of Chinatown being Chinese/Chinese-American, and it was good for business, too.

Traditional Chinatown procession, late 19th century.
Photo: Courtesy Bancroft Library via Calisphere.org

Vendor selling balloons, Chinatown, c. 1890s.
Photo: Courtesy Bancroft Library via Calisphere.org

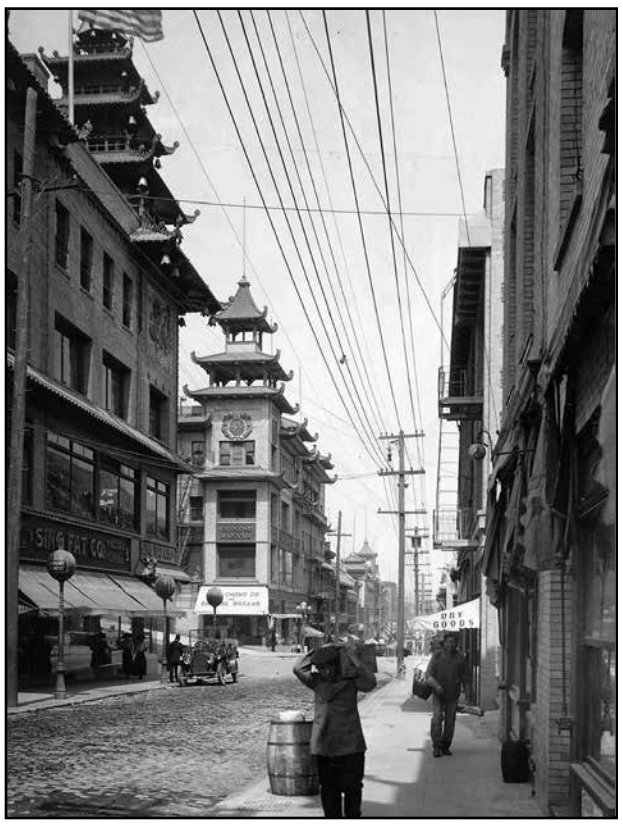
Harper's Weekly portrayal of Chinese fishermen in San Francisco bay, 1875.
Photo: Courtesy Bancroft Library via Calisphere.org

Chinatown's Resurgence

Having destroyed all US Customs immigration records, the 1906 earthquake and fire led to some growth in Chinatown's population. An intricate underground network of false papers grew out of the ashes. Making claims to US citizenship, thousands of Chinese who were in the United States but were not citizens when the fire occurred applied to bring their sons and/or families from China. Chinatown eventually became more family-oriented, as police and community intervention curbed opium smuggling, slave-girl traffic, and gambling. Between 1921 and 1926 alone, the population of Chinatown increased by 7,000.

When the US declared war against Japan on December 8, 1941, China became a trusted ally. The Chinese were now portrayed as heroic people united with Americans, battling a common foe. In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation repealing the Exclusion Acts and, more importantly, establishing Chinese eligibility for US citizenship. The Exclusion Acts had effectively reduced the Chinese population; by 1940, they were only one half of one percent of California's population—compared to 10% in 1880.

The 1946 "War Brides Act" permitted wives of Chinese-American men to enter the US as non-quota immigrants. Before the Act's expiration at the end of 1949, 8,000 Chinese women entered the United States. The 1960's civil rights movement stimulated an equitable immigration policy in 1965, when Asian countries were given quotas comparable to those of European countries. During the 1960s, 30,000 Chinese entered through San Francisco. By 1970, there were more than 40,000 people living in Chinatown's 42 blocks, a density rate of 885/1 person per acre—ten times the City average.



Grant Street (then Dupont Gai) north towards California Street, 1928 (above) and 1945 (below).
Photos: Courtesy Bancroft Library via Calisphere.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

MOVING ON, LOOKING BACK

by Judy Irving
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European hornbeams planted where Canary Island pines once stood. © Judy Irving

Love Trees

As you know, our beloved Washington Square Park lost ten mature healthy trees around the playground. (See Fall issue.) In late October, an in-the-park "walkabout" meeting was arranged by Supervisor Aaron Peskin and attended by Supervisor Peskin, Ken Maley (Friends of Washington Square), Phil Ginsberg (General Manager, Rec/Park), and me (THD). First, Phil took responsibility for his department's tragic lack of oversight that led to the tree deaths, and he apologized. We were most concerned, however, about what happens next: replacement trees, future construction protocols, and ongoing tree maintenance in the park.

Although we advocated for evergreen deodar cedars, RPD chose deciduous European Hornbeams as replacements for the Canary Island pines. I'd never heard of hornbeams before. See what you think— seven replacements were planted in early December. Phil did agree to source large trees (48-inch box) instead of saplings. The lone remaining Canary Island pine was donated to the park by THD in 2011. For some reason, the contractor didn't destroy those roots.

What follows are verbatim agreements that I got in writing from Phil Ginsberg after our walkabout. You can tell from his responses what our demands were.

- We recognize (and share) community concerns with the contractor's performance on the playground project and will work within legal constraints to remedy and address those concerns.
- We recognize (and share) community desire to ensure big, healthy, stately trees along the eastern and southern edges of the park and will work with stakeholders (at our expense) to fill in appropriate gaps in the canopy and replace any future tree removals with similar stately trees.
- We will plant flowering vines to grow up and through the mesh-fenced area of the restroom that faces the playground.
- *As part of the written construction specifications and protocols, we are developing a more detailed tree protection plan for every unique tree within the irrigation and drainage project boundary and will vet the plan with Craig Heckman and Don Raichle, landscape architects representing FOWS and THD, respectively.*
- We will make sure we have a regular tree maintenance plan for THD's five large trees that were donated to WSP in 2011.
- Once the playground project is completed — and before the irrigation and drainage project begins — RPD's Director of Capital and Planning Toks Ajike, Operations Director Denny Kern and Parks Superintendent Eric Anderson will host a community debrief on tree protection and preventative steps we are taking, moving forward.
- For the irrigation and drainage project, we will have an arborist visit the site daily during excavation and prep work, and be on call otherwise; as previously indicated we will have a unique tree protection plan for each tree in the project area.

Taking a broader perspective, aiming to re-green our concrete city with a tree canopy that makes us proud and makes birds sing, a new group has formed: "The Guardians of the GalaxTrees," and I just attended its inaugural meeting. We should have some fun with that! If you love trees (and the peace, shade, oxygen, and other benefits they provide) and would like to be part of this, let me know.

Love History

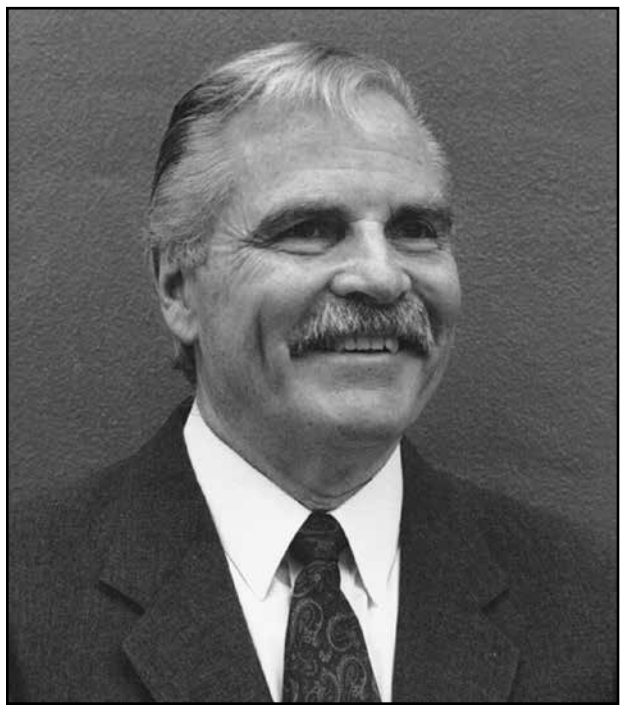
Sometimes forces converge and energy starts to flow in a certain direction. That's been happening lately with North Beach/Telegraph Hill histories. THD has a wonderful collection of tapes, transcripts, and photographs of residents—some well-known, some not—recorded/collected by Audrey Tomaselli, Rozell Overmire, and other volunteer interviewers, but there's been no easy way to listen to the audio cassettes because they haven't been digitized.

Enter Mary Franklin Harvin and her partner Brandi Howell, San Francisco independent producers. They contacted us recently about a radio documentary and public engagement project they're developing that's centered on North Beach. We got together at Café Zoetrope with Blair Helsing ("North Beach Now" podcast producer) and had a wonderful meeting of the minds. Brandi, who works with the Kitchen Sisters, offered to digitize THD's audio cassette tapes at no charge in return for being able to listen to them! Read about their project, "North Beach Tales," in this issue.

Then Lucas Ho got in touch with THD about another creative way to experience the past: "I'm building an app that teaches San Francisco history; so far, it uses location-based tech and AR (augmented reality) to illuminate SF landmarks that no longer exist." His sample clip on YouTube shows a ship sailing on a superimposed sea across Levi's Plaza!

Steven Sodokoff wrote to us about his new book: "I am writing an Illustrated historic guidebook of San Francisco told through the iconic neighborhood clocks. My first chapter is about North Beach…" Blair Helsing's podcast, "North Beach Now," focusing on contemporary stories and characters, has just posted an audio tour of the Beat Museum recorded in real time with director Jerry Cimino.

In our moving forward with THD's Oral History Project, it's no longer enough to record audio and take stills; people want to see the folks who are telling stories tell them! It's time for us to upgrade to videotaped oral histories. Coincidentally, I was recently interviewed by a professional oral historian who works for the Bancroft Library at U.C. Berkeley. I took note of the equipment she used – small, efficient Canon HD camera, tripod, lavalier mike, softlight – and got all the specs. THD should buy the same camera package! If you're interested in helping underwrite this purchase, you can make a tax-deductible contribution by sending a check to the Northeast San Francisco Conservancy, 470 Columbus Ave, SF CA 94133. The NESFC (in this issue) is the 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor for THD's Oral History Project.



Dick Monaco (son of Dante, grandson of J.B.) was interviewed for THD's Oral History Project by Audrey Tomaselli in 2001. Source: Monaco Labs

JB Monaco's studio on Columbus Avenue. © JB Monaco

MEET NEW BOARD MEMBER DAVID BECKER

David Becker © Dennis Hearne

David Becker was born in Armenia and grew up in Santa Barbara, California. After viewing an enchanting photo of Jasper Alley, David was inspired to see it in person. He immediately fell in love with our neighborhood and moved here shortly after. He now has been living in North Beach for two years and loves to call it home.

David is a designer, software engineer, and entrepreneur. His projects include FormSwift, an Inc 500 company ranked one of the fastest growing companies in America and the HiFutureSelf iPhone app, formerly ranked in the Top 100 on the Apple App Store. When not working on his company, David plants trees with Friends of the Urban Forest, tutors with 826 Valencia, and builds bikes with the Bike Coalition.

David has a lifelong passion for parks and trees and looks forward to helping to protect and grow our urban canopy. As a pedestrian and a daily bike commuter, he is also zealous about working with THD to improve pedestrian safety in our neighborhood.

CALL FOR MEMORIES FROM THE PRODUCERS: A NEW NORTH BEACH RADIO DOCUMENTARY

Tales from North Beach, a new San Francisco radio documentary and community preservation project, is launching a casting call for neighborhood memories. Bay Area co-producers Brandi Howell and Mary Franklin Harvin want recollections of hidden, fading, and forgotten institutions of your neighborhood, both people and places.

This means YOU, especially if:

- You or a close relative ever shopped at the old Colombo Produce Market.
- You ever saw Carol Doda go-go dancing at the Condor or sitting at the bar at Tosca drinking her favorite cocktail, the White Nun.
- You heard Vince Guaraldi, Lenny Bruce, or Woody Allen or at least swilled some liquor at Enrico Banducci's hungry i.
- You caught a set at the likes of the Jazz Workshop, The Tin Angel, the Sugar Hil, etc.
- You considered the stale popcorn at the Mabuhay Gardens one of your major food groups.
- You or a friend have an original Lyle Tuttle epidermis engraving. (That's "tattoo" to most of us.)

Since there was still a beach called "North," North Beach has been a neighborhood with an open-door policy for those once—or currently—considered on the fringes of society: Bootstrapping immigrants. Scrappy brothel workers. LGBTQ club owners and patrons. Go-go dancers. Punks. Poets. Tattoo artists. Self-proclaimed and actual Bohemians (if there's a difference) of all sorts.

But their histories and the vital imprints they left behind are often overlooked. *Tales from North Beach* excavates these subjects and their orbits and in doing so, hopes to remind listeners what we have to lose as a result of the City's frantically-paced redevelopment efforts: the layer of our surroundings that exists only through our collective memory.

If you have firsthand or hand-me-down recollections to share, please email *TalesFromNorthBeach@gmail*.com, or call 805-264-3707. For more information about the project, visit *www.talesfromnorthbeach.com*.

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DISTRICT 3 SUPERVISOR REPORT

2018: THE YEAR THAT WAS

by Supervisor Aaron Peskin
aaron.peskin@sfgov.org

Whether it was helping shape the local ballot in the two 2018 elections or passing every conceivable manner of legislation, the District 3 office had a busy 2018.

Ethics & Campaign Finance Reform:

After back-to-back elections fueled with nasty political attacks ads, I passed the Anti-Corruption and Accountability Ordinance, which takes aim at violations as serious as coordination between a campaign and an independent expenditure committee; many of these committees have seemingly generic names that hide their true sources of funding. Residents deserve to know who is trying to buy their votes, and this legislation went a long way toward ensuring transparency in elections.

My "Commissioners Without Conflicts" ballot measure also passed; it eliminates the potential conflict when appointed commissioners run for elected office and use their influential positions to raise money from the very people who have business before them. With the passage of this Charter Amendment (Prop. B on last June's ballot), these commissioners now must resign their commission when they run for elected office.

Public Transportation:

After I co-chaired (with Mayor Lee) the Transportation Task Force 2045 through a six-month process, it released its final recommendations addressing the City's $22-billion funding gap with revenue strategies for public transportation infrastructure and operations through 2045. One of the recommendations was an increased Transportation Sustainability Fee (TSF). My subsequent legislation increasing the TSF for large commercial high-rises (to address the citywide transit impacts of a booming downtown) finally passed (after an initial veto from Mayor Lee); it's expected to bring in $12 million annually.

Another recommendation was to pass a ride-share tax that would help to mitigate the congestion caused by the thousands of Uber and Lyft vehicles clogging our streets. Working with Assemblyman Phil Ting, we were able to pass state-ratifying legislation (AB 1184) that reinforces the City's authority to adopt a per-ride surcharge. San Francisco voters will determine the fate of this local tax measure (expected to bring in $30 million annually for critical public transit operations, street paving, and pedestrian and cyclist safety improvements) in November 2019.

This year, we also celebrated the completion of the Columbus Avenue Safety Project as well as the final phase of the Broadway Streetscape Improvement Project between Columbus Avenue and the Broadway Tunnel. I know both projects were a hassle while they were under construction, but now that they are finally done, I think they have been a benefit to North Beach and Chinatown, where children and seniors can move through the neighborhood more safely.

I also secured funding to begin late-night service to and from Fisherman's Wharf, in recognition of the many workers who keep the hospitality and tourism industries alive downtown. I have also allocated Neighborhood Transportation Improvement Project (NTIP) design-dollars to study congestion mitigation around Portsmouth Square, pedestrian safety improvements along Kearny Street, and a pedestrian scramble at Columbus Avenue and Green/Stockton Streets. And, I have allocated NTIP construction dollars to implement the final phase of the Fisherman's Wharf Jefferson Streetscape Plan that will continue to widen sidewalks and improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists. We also used NTIP dollars for new bicycle lanes on Broadway and Sansome in early 2019.

Tenant Protections and Affordable Housing:

After being approached by many tenants struggling with onerous, costly pass-throughs on top of their legal rent increases, I partnered with Supervisor Sandra Fewer to eliminate certain types of pass-throughs, protecting tenants from debilitating rent increases that undermine the spirit of rent control—and potentially lead to displacement.

After passing the "Affordable Housing Preservation & Acquisition Bond" in 2016, the City is finally ready to start issuing a quarter of a billion dollars in low-interest money for the City and non-profits to rehabilitate and permanently acquire affordable housing stock. This past month, the Board of Supervisors issued funding to acquire a large low-income apartment building in Chinatown that was at risk of being purchased by speculators and is now, thankfully, permanently affordable housing for seniors and families.

With valuable input from THD, I have also introduced the "Housing Preservation & Expansion Reform Act." The time of developers illegally gutting and demolishing rent-controlled and historic housing to build mega-mansions is drawing to a close, as we saw with the Planning Commission's recent decision requiring the developer to rebuild an exact replica of the demolished 1935 Neutra House in Twin Peaks.

Finally, I am continuing the push to make my "Accessory Dwelling Unit" (ADU) program as accessible and streamlined as possible. One of the top concerns from small property owners was access to financing and technical support. In a new partnership with the SF Federal Credit Union, there will now be affordable loan products for mom & pop applicants; as of this writing, there are more than 1,000 ADUs in the pipeline.

Coastal Commission and Protecting the Waterfront:

I am honored to continue to serve on the oversight body of this critical statewide agency that has protected our coast since 1972. The Commission accomplished some remarkable things in the past year, including (1) finally taking on public access to the 8.5-mile stretch of coastline at Hollister Ranch in Santa Barbara, (2) safeguarding public access to Martin's Beach in San Mateo County, and (3) adopting new regulations for dealing with sea level rise in and along Ocean Beach in San Francisco.

Additionally, I sponsored Proposition A on this past November's ballot, a bond measure to retrofit and reinforce our aging seawall in the face of imminent sea-level rise and existing seismic vulnerability.

Solutions to Homelessness:

This will continue to be a top priority for me in 2019 and beyond. In early October, I brought Chief Bill Scott and his command staff to North Beach to hear directly from families who have experienced an uptick in aggressive and physically-threatening behavior on the streets. Parents demanded increased foot patrols, especially around parks, to which Chief Scott and Captain Yep agreed. Mayor Breed also has committed to a crisis-intervention team (public-health workers trained to intervene in instances of mental crisis) for North Beach. The community's direct feedback and advocacy to the Mayor and Police Chief have been incredibly important — Thank you.

I was also heartened by this past November's passage of Proposition C. The overwhelming support for the measure means that many people recognize that out of the $250 million our three-year-old Department of Homelessness spent last year, two-thirds of the budget went to rental subsidies, eviction prevention, and permanent supportive housing in order to prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place—or to house the formerly homeless. That means only 17.6 percent (or $57 million) was spent on street team outreach, temporary shelters, and health services for the visible homeless population on San Francisco streets. To tackle this homeless crisis head-on, we need deep investments in a continuum of care, including housing. I have introduced a supplemental appropriation with five of my colleagues at City Hall to allocate one-time funding to supportive housing acquisition and behavioral health facility construction, while we wait for Prop C's legal challenges to be resolved and on-going annual funds freed up. I will continue to push for a Navigation Center—near the highest concentration of homeless people currently residing in District 3—down near the waterfront. I have truly appreciated everyone's continued input in what this could look like and those of you who have joined me on tours of other Navigation Center sites to see how they operate.

District 3 Community

My incredible team and I want to thank everyone who made the past year of work meaningful and worth celebrating. In the Middle Polk neighborhood, we finally pushed through the Discover Polk Community Benefit District, ensuring increased services to the entire neighborhood. Congratulations to Suzanne Markel-Fox and her amazing team.

In North Beach, we finally secured Big Belly trash cans by working with THD, North Beach Citizens, North Beach Business Association, and North Beach Neighbors. It was your persistence that paid off! I want to thank my D3 Youth Commissioner Maggie Dong; my SFCTA CAC representative, Rachel Zack; my SFMTA CAC rep, Queena Chen; and all of you who truly give so much of yourselves to serving this community. Finally, a grateful thank you and farewell to our Central Station Captain Paul Yep and a heartfelt welcome to Bobby Yick who will be taking over as the new Captain at Central Station.

Happy Holidays from your District 3 office, and see you around the neighborhood,

Aaron, Sunny, Lee, and Calvin

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LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!

by Sarah Kliban
sarah.kliban@thd.org

Find:

- two Australian Aboriginal people here in the United States
- a female amputee who looks like she's from Spain and speaks Spanish
- a seven-foot-tall Kevin Durant photo-double who plays basketball well

I found each of them.

The Audition Room

© Daniel Gonzalez

As a professional, independent casting director, I face those types of challenges (and less taxing searches) every day.

Getting to the search phase, however, represents untold hours of preparation. Luckily for me, some of that upfront time and energy has already been expended before a production calls for a casting director, as we are always finding people for our casting files. But then, once the project has been presented, the deal made, the contract signed—local casting is off to the races…

A casting director's job requires (1) an ability to assess people's personalities and their talent levels quickly; (2) an infinite amount of patience; and (3) a really great memory. (I remember hundreds and hundreds of actors but somehow can never seem to find my keys or my phone…)

There are two types of casting we are asked to do: "Principal Casting" and "Background Casting." Both are requested for films, tv programs, commercials (most popular in our neighborhood), training videos, voice-overs, live shows, documentary re-enactments... *You name it!*

Principal Casting: As the Casting Director, I have to identify all the roles to be cast and any special parameters or skills the actors might need. Then we get the word out to local agents. If the roles are particularly challenging to fill, we have to do what we call Direct Casting—expanding our outreach to contacts in the community to find the right people. Sometimes not even that's enough, particularly when the part calls for someone who's not in the mainstream talent pool…perhaps an individual covered in tattoos...or a member of the Trans community...or even someone with a special skill: bicycle freewheeling down steep San Francisco hills...performing magic tricks, perhaps a pro... or even someone willing to be nude on camera. (Yes, whatever you're imagining, we've had to find it.)

If even *Direct Casting* fails to find that special person, then we have to turn to *Street Casting* (also known as "taking it to the streets"). Yes, we literally stand on street corners looking for the types of people we need.

After we've finally succeeded in wrangling all those potential cast members, we have to get each one in to audition. And then it sometimes becomes a very slow process as the director/producer/ persons with power select, often with much haggling, the actors they want.

Background Casting: Once called "extras casting," the challenge of Background Casting is to convince all kinds of people to work for a small-ish amount of money in exchange for being on set. If there's a big-name talent in the production, it's easier getting them to participate than if it's an independent film with a very small budget or a training video.

It was quite exciting to cast the background players for *Tales of the City* which recently filmed in our neighborhood. Many of the scenes shot here were "period" scenes, so the performers all had to be fitted for vintage wardrobes. I was amazed to see the 200 block of Columbus Avenue transformed into 1966 even for a few hours. These are some of the satisfying moments that make us love what we do.

Sometimes the challenge of finding a person, or people, seems excruciating and never-ending…a promise you can't break, so you're tied to the search until the bitter end. But once you find that person or persons, you get to be smug – for a moment, anyway.

Though not as glamourous as people might believe and despite the unbelievable amount of stress, casting can be exciting and fulfilling. It's quite rewarding to give people yearning for a new experience these kinds of opportunities. And it becomes a raison d'etre to overcome these sometimes-absurd challenges and discover the "needle in the haystack."

There's also never been a doubt in my mind as to the importance of the art of storytelling as it relates to our City—not only as a picturesque backdrop but sometimes as the protagonist of a story. And it keeps a vast number who love the art of storytelling employed.

There does seem to be a division in North Beach, though, between the people who support the film business in the City and those who don't. Film crews can definitely be invasive and annoying. Parking spaces you've always snagged are suddenly gone. Sidewalks are blocked. However, to the naysayers, I offer that the ongoing appearance of our beloved City on television and in movies continues to inspire people far and wide to visit. Bringing their appreciation and their money to spend here, all contribute to keeping this City great.

NAN ROTH: WATCHFUL WATERFRONT WARRIOR

by Jon Golinger

"It was always a pleasure to treat Nan like royalty."
—Marq Virgilio, Mario's Bohemian Cigar Store

Just as she did on so many days, a group of Nan Roth's friends and fellow Hill Dwellers gathered at Original Joe's the evening of November 10, 2018. We were there to remember Nan, who passed away peacefully in September from natural causes at her home on Kearny Street. She was 82.

Nan served on THD's Board, was a leader in the organization for decades, and dedicated thousands of hours of volunteer work to a wide array of neighborhood history, planning, and preservation issues. Among her many projects, she was a member of the Fisherman's Wharf Citizens Advisory Committee and the Mid-Embarcadero Open Space Subcommittee as well as a regular participant in the Northeast Waterfront Advisory Committee.

Nan was devoted to protecting San Francisco's unique and historic waterfront from the seemingly never-ending cascade of proposals to build it up and wall it off. She was a leader in 1990's successful ballot initiative campaign to pass Proposition H (Prop.H), a watershed moment in San Francisco's waterfront wars when the voters weighed in squarely on the side of preservation and planning. Prop. H prohibited hotels from being built on any waterfront piers and placed a moratorium on new waterfront development until the Port engaged in a community process to create a comprehensive Waterfront Land Use Plan.

Nan was appointed by the Port (perhaps grudgingly) to serve as a neighborhood representative to the first Waterfront Plan Advisory Board. She served for six years on the Port Waterfront Plan Board with distinction, modeling what it means to be an engaged citizen. She did her homework, showed up to every meeting, participated in discussions, and did not shrink from a debate over important issues even when she was vastly outnumbered or entirely outvoted. Nan stood strong, spoke up, and made a difference.

Nan continued her waterfront advocacy for the rest of her life. She continued to attend Port meetings and was generous with her time, advising newer waterfront advocates like me to carefully inspect claims and assertions made by developers and Port staff. When talk of repealing the Prop. H pier-hotel ban surfaced in recent years, Nan funded a survey of San Francisco voters, which found that voters overwhelmingly oppose repealing the waterfront pier hotel-ban by a margin of 71%-17%. The idea quickly faded.

Mario Crismani, Nan and Nathan Roth.

Nan was predeceased by her beloved husband Nathan, whom a friend described as Nan's "life jacket." Nan and Nathan are permanently remembered at Mario's Bohemian Cigar Store, where Nan went without fail for lunch every day. Tucked snugly into the wall, a photograph of a smiling Nan and Nathan — alongside Mario himself — shines down. Nan is there watching, keeping an eye out for our waterfront and the neighborhood she loved.

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PANEL DISCUSSION ON HOMELESSNESS

by Nick Ferris
nick.ferris@thd.org

Panel representing nonprofit organizations, the homeless population, and city government (l. to r.): Kristie Fairchild, Dianna Tommasello, Rachel Rodriguez, and Emily Cohen, with moderator Nick Ferris. © Vaishali Ravi

The Telegraph Hill Dwellers' and North Beach Citizens' Young Professionals teamed up to organize a panel discussion on what has become one, if not the top, social and political issue we face in San Francisco: Homelessness. The event took place at the North Beach Citizens' Resource Center on December 6 before a packed and lively audience. Panelists spent the first part of the meeting providing information, including statistics and dispelling myths; a Q&A with the audience followed.

According to the Dept of Homelessness' Point-In-Time Count (2017), we have roughly 7,499 homeless persons in the City. Although that number has remained constant over the past eight years, we've clearly had a significant increase in their visibility.

"I think what was most helpful was simply having an opportunity to ask questions of the experts," said Dylan Cole, a local resident. "I never would have guessed most homeless had housing in San Francisco prior to becoming homeless," he added. Panelist Emily Cohen of the Department of Homelessness stated, "Sixty-nine percent of the homeless we see on the streets today lived and had housing in San Francisco; fifty-five percent have been homeless for 10 years or more."

Many audience members asked how they could help. Kristie Fairchild, Executive Director of North Beach Citizens, said one of the biggest things anyone can do is to use the 311 app to identify where people are. "The more data the City and local organizations have, the more informed and better the decisions we can make," she noted.

Given the overwhelming interest in and success of the panel discussion, both organizations have committed to holding such activities frequently. If you have suggestions for topics or ways to go forward or would like to be a part of the next discussion, please reach out to either group.

Annual THD Holiday Party
see page 17

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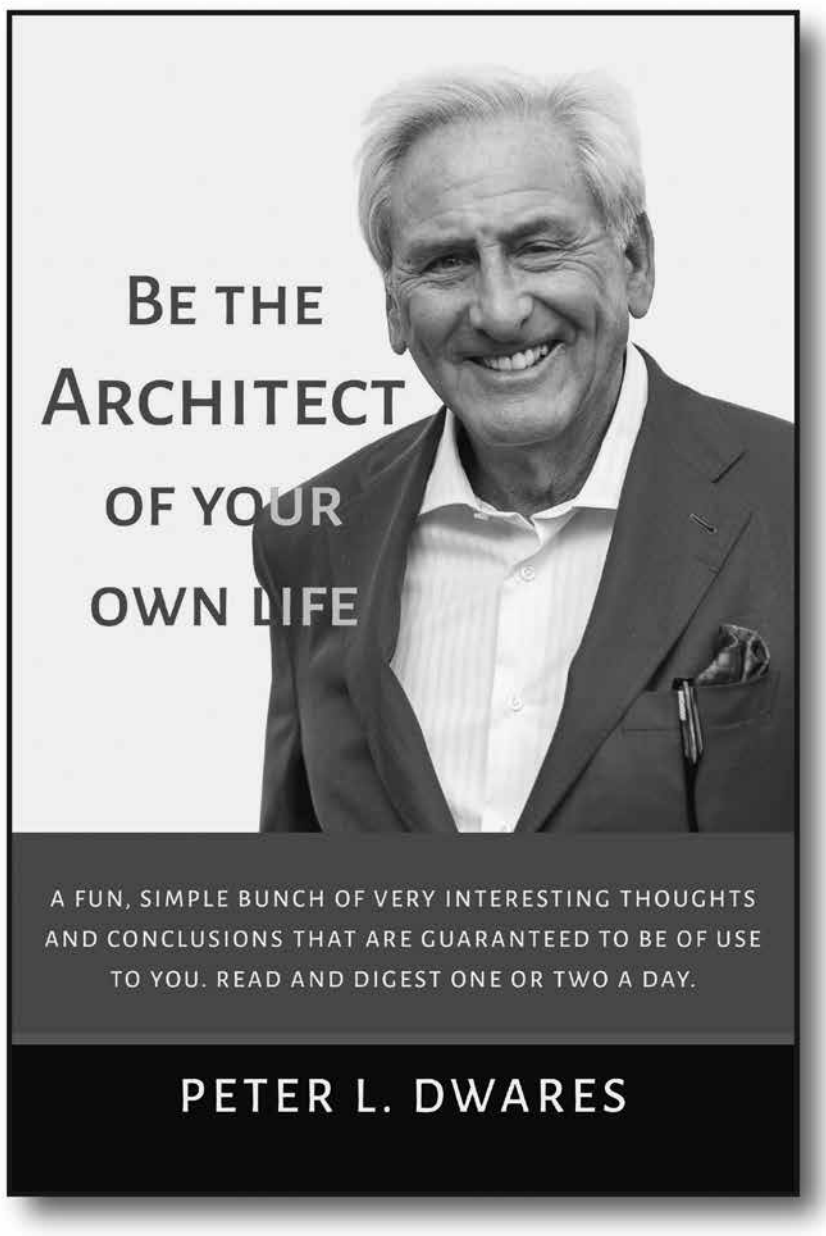
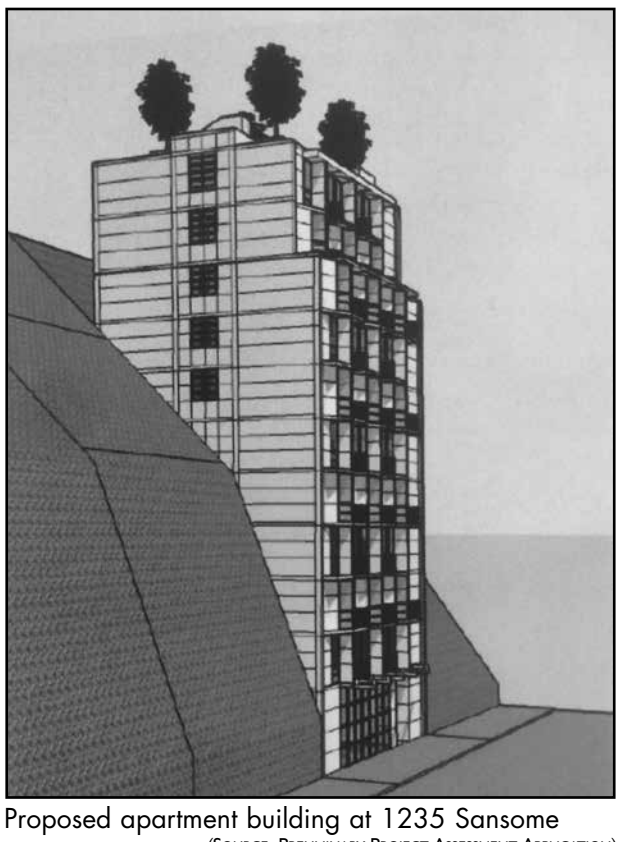


PLANNING & ZONING REPORT

by Stan Hayes, Committee Chair
stan.hayes@thd.org

Well, it's another year! The aftermath of (and penance due from) 10,000-calorie-per-day holiday living. Another list of resolutions, hopes for a New Year renewed once again. Some resolutions new, many still there from last year. All looking ahead, though, to the future. Much of which will be better, we hope, but some parts of it, not so much.



Proposed apartment building at 1235 Sansome
(Source: Preliminary Project Assessment Application)

Proposed New Building at 1235 Sansome

In the not-so-much category, something I thought you'd be interested in has flashed onto my "future" radar screen. Telegraph Hill, recognized in San Francisco's Planning Code as one of "the most famous hills in the world," is celebrated for its steep cliffs as a "highly significant aesthetically important component" of the Telegraph Hill Historic District.

Many of us live on the Hill near those steep cliffs. Worried, we've installed seatbelts on our furniture, and we are relieved if our hillside homes end the rainy season in the same zip code. And, those worries are not just our imagination. We all remember times through the years when parts of the Hill decided to move on their own. Movements sometimes small, but sometimes large…VERY large.

Street-level view showing 1235 Sansome cliff
© Stan Hayes

You may recall the steep cliffside near the Filbert Steps that collapsed, dooming a multi-unit residential building that had to be demolished. Or, the steep cliffside that gave way near Julius' Castle, crushing a car below and narrowly missing a building full of condominiums. Or, the steep cliffside boulders that crashed down onto Sansome, where cars park and people walk.

One thing these events have in common: They all occurred within a quarter-of-a-mile of 1235 Sansome. Two of them were within 200 feet, one at nearly that same location.

Why is this address important? Because that's where in early December an out-of-state developer proposed to gouge into unstable steep cliffs a new 11-story, 110-foot-high apartment building. Look at the image showing 1235 Sansome as it is now. Then, look at the developer's drawing of his proposed building.

Are you surprised? We are, too. This building does not belong there; it's an unstable, unsuitable, and unsafe site, which should be obvious to everyone. THD will fight hard to prevent its approval. Stay tuned for further updates, as this story unfolds.

Extension of Hours at 412 Broadway (Penthouse Club)

Following up on our last *Semaphore* P&Z Report, here's an update on the extension of hours from 2 am to 4 am at the Penthouse Club. Since last time, THD has continued in joint efforts with the Barbary Coast Neighborhood Association, the Golden Gateway Tenants Association, and 455 Vallejo Street Homeowners Association to oppose the extension of hours.

Working together, THD, BCNA, GGTA, and 455 Vallejo HOA enlisted members and others in an email campaign; more than 40 people sent emails opposing the extension of hours to the Planning Commission. (A gratifying response – THANKS!!) THD and many others offered comments at the final Planning Commission hearing on the extension of hours, strongly opposing the extension and supporting Planning staff's recommendation to the Planning Commission to disapprove it.

Despite clear and vocal public opposition and against the recommendation of its own staff, though, the Planning Commission voted 4-1 to approve the extension of hours. (Two Commissioners were absent.) Recognizing the extent of public opposition, however, the Planning Commission imposed additional requirements for monitoring the club's extended-hours operation, including possible revocation of the permit should the operation result in unresolved complaints found to violate the Planning Code and/or permit conditions. A written performance update to the Planning Department is required no later than one year after starting extended-hour operations. Should that performance update warrant it, the Planning Commission can initiate a permit-revocation process.

The Planning Commission also required as a condition of permit approval, ongoing community engagement with neighborhood groups and other stakeholders, including initial meetings to discuss and select metrics to measure the impact of extended-hours operation and at least two subsequent community meetings during the first year to discuss ongoing operational issues associated with the extended hours.

A first metrics meeting was held at the Planning Department; participants included Planning staff, Penthouse Club representatives, and THD, BCNA, and GGTA. Among the issues discussed were (a) establishment of a Penthouse Club-staffed "Community Liaison Officer" telephone number for the public to call if problems occur, (b) possible establishment of a community advisory group to coordinate community engagement efforts, and (c) a draft evaluation plan (metrics, geographic area, measurements, and monitoring) proposed by neighborhood groups. More will follow. As with the item earlier in this report, stay tuned.

Finally, and as always, remember! To join, or to get information from, the THD Planning & Zoning Committee, just send an email to *hello@thd.org* or *stan.hayes@thd.org*.

View from above showing Sansome cliff and surrounding area
(Source: Google Earth)

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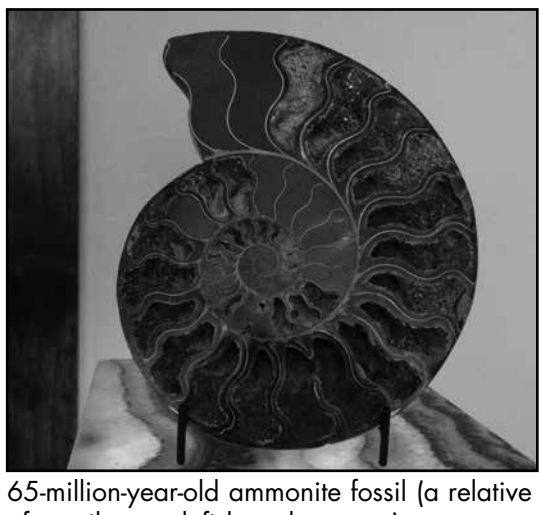
IGNEOUS THEORY

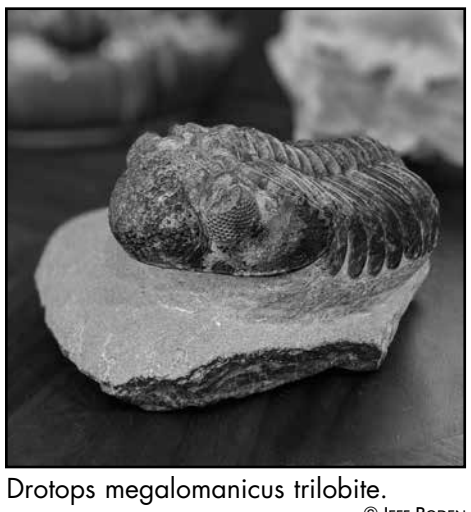
by Judy Irving
films@pelicanmedia.org

Igneous Theory shop at 478 Union above Grant. © Judy Irving


65-million-year-old ammonite fossil (a relative of nautilus, cuttlefish and octopus) © Judy Irving

Break your own geode and find crystals inside. © Jeff Roden

Museum-like shop interior (table can be moved for events). © Judy Irving


Drotops megalomanicus trilobite. © Jeff Roden

Octopus cubic zirconia oxidized sterling silver bracelet. © Jeff Roden

Seahorse oxidized sterling silver post earrings. © Jeff Roden

Tiny Shergottite Martian meteorite found in Morocco. © Jeff Roden

I was a rock hound when I was a kid, inspired by a 1956 car trip our family took "Out West" from suburban New Jersey. When Igneous Theory opened a few months ago in the old Yone Bead Shop location, I was curious to see the goods.

"Igneous," I remembered, means rock that was once molten. The other two rock types are sedimentary (ocean floor, lake bottom – layers of sediment) and metamorphic (igneous/sedimentary changed by heat and pressure).

Jeff Roden, the new shop's proprietor, had been a private collector for decades when he started looking for the perfect retail space for his gems, fossils, and geology-inspired art. Yone, in addition to its long history as a world-famous bead shop with clients like Janis Joplin, was large enough for uncluttered display cases as well as for public events, which Jeff will launch this year. He has a large screen for presentations and would like his shop to become a community-gathering space for artists and experts, hosting science-based stories of adventure and discovery. Stay tuned.

Meanwhile, the shop itself is worth a long, unhurried visit. There are glass cabinets with silver gemstone jewelry, ancient fossils caught in rock, a striking photograph by Mike Woodward, printed on aluminum and looking like a turquoise river flowing around boulders but is actually a blowup of a tiny piece of opal.

Look up and see, hanging from the ceiling, a flying reptile with an 11-foot wingspan. It's a replica of a Pteranodon," Jeff told me. "James Cameron has a real one, but I don't."

Growing up in Washington D.C. with free access to the Smithsonian kindled his interest in geology. Although Jeff has also studied and worked with computers, his first passion is reflected in the new shop. "It's not about getting rich, not about fashion; it's about sharing information." How did he manage to fund such an ambitious project? He took an artistic risk: "I traded my house in El Sobrante for the shop." He now lives in NOPA (North of the Panhandle).

There are shelves of rocks and minerals, all carefully labeled, including pieces of lavender amethyst, my favorite when I was a collector. Open a drawer and observe dull beige geodes, which you can take home, wrap in a towel, tap open with a hammer, and find glittering quartz crystals inside.

When I saw those geodes, a memory flooded back: I was on a beach on the Long Island Sound, hurling rock after rock at a larger boulder, then breaking each one open, hoping to find crystals. But they were all as dull as their exteriors. Until finally....once, just once, I broke open a rock and found amethyst inside. Slabs of amethyst at Igneous Theory are only $15, and the geodes are $7.50! Now I just wish I knew a 10-year-old who'd love to break open a rock!

Other items are pricier, of course, like Bora Yasar's oxidized sterling silver jewelry, including an octopus bracelet with arms that wrap nicely around your wrist; Miki Tanaka's silver and bronze cicadas and rhinoceros beetle pin ("helmet insect," popular in anime); 50-million-year-old, long extinct fish from Fossil Lake in Wyoming, caught swimming in an ancient sea,; and three-foot-tall Mexican onyx lamps, with bands of color lit from within. There are lava rocks certified from Mars and found in Morocco; moon rocks, too, collected in Mali; a huge trilobite fossil; a crinoid (sea creature related to a starfish); green "broccoli" celadonite; and bright blue cavansite.

Jeff has established contacts with artists, photographers, paleontologists, fossil and meteorite hunters, and geologists from whom he sources these treasures. Every year he tries to attend either the Tucson or Denver "Gem & Mineral Showcase," each hosting thousands of vendors.

In some ways Igneous Theory is more like a small natural history museum than a retail outlet. It's a thrill to have this shop in our neighborhood, and it's a testament to the creativity that flourishes when cookie-cutter chain stores are kept at bay. Located near Libreria Pino (a detailed description by Mark Bittner on the opposite page) and the Hole-in-the-Wall coffee shop, Igneous Theory is part of the recent revitalization of North Beach/Union Street. Flute World (at Grant and Union) might even be open by the time you read this. Jeff welcomes visits from locals, whether or not you buy anything. It's also a great place to bring out-of-town visitors. You can be sure they don't have a shop like this at home.

Igneous Theory is located at 478 Union above Grant Avenue. Open 11 am to 7 pm Monday through Sunday, and till 9 pm on "First Fridays." *info@igneoustheory.com* 415-590-2422

STREET SHOPS!

LIBRERIA PINO

by Mark Bittner

It's remarkable that at a time when most bookstores are either struggling to survive or going out of business, a new one has opened in North Beach. As far as the store's owner knows, Libreria Pino is the only all-Italian bookstore in the entire United States. To those of us who have spent time trying to learn the language and know how difficult it is to obtain books in Italian, the place is a godsend.

Joseph Carboni started the business six years ago, but for the first five, it was online only (Libreriapino.com). Then, in the summer of 2017, he opened it briefly as a pop-up store on Grant Avenue. "It was my first experiment in retail," says Carboni, "and it went well enough to support moving to a permanent location. This space was available here at 548 Union—a spot I've always been attracted to. In my hopes and dreams I thought, 'This sunny and beautiful corner at Union and Jasper would be an ideal place for some sort of business.' And now, here I am."

Carboni was born and raised in San Mateo. His paternal grandfather was from Calabria, but Joseph was not encouraged to learn the language. He developed his interest on his own—first taking classes in conversational Italian at a community college, then studying for two years in Rome at John Cabot University. After his Italian sojourn, Carboni returned to the Bay Area and earned a Master's in Business Administration from USF.

His interest in owning a store began when he started buying Italian books online for himself and his son to whom he was teaching Italian. He was often paying more for shipping costs than the books themselves. "I thought to myself, 'I can't be the only one doing this in the Bay Area, let alone the United States.' So I did some research, and I really couldn't find any booksellers that had a selection of Italian books to purchase, either in person or online. I would always check to see if a store carried *Green Eggs and Ham* (the Dr. Seuss book) in Italian. And I really could not find that anywhere. Now it turns out that's one of our best sellers."

Carboni started selling books online but from the beginning, wanted to grow large enough that he could own and operate a physical bookstore. The online business still accounts for half to two-thirds of his business, but the physical store is doing well. He gets much of his business from local Italians. "There are still a lot of traditional Italian families in North Beach and San Francisco, as well as a lot of new Italians who've come over here to work in Silicon Valley. The families are teaching their children Italian." Around half of his customers are American learners. He also gets Italian tourists passing through looking for something to read while they're traveling. "We just had a couple yesterday who were on a two-year world travel, and they were so excited to come in and have a little slice of Italy while they are traveling the globe. I think they stumbled across us by accident."

He estimates that half the books he sells are by Italian authors, the other half, translations into Italian. He often recommends to American learners Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*, one of the first books he read in Italian. *The Little Prince* is a big seller. He will special order books, and while it's not his focus, he does carry instructional books on the language as well as Italian-English dictionaries, picture dictionaries for children, and dictionaries that are completely in Italian. Interestingly, he has dictionaries of the Neapolitan and Sicilian dialects. Libreria Pino sells Italian music and movies as well, and everything comes from Italy. "It does require quite a bit of patience ordering books from Italy," he adds.

The store does events frequently. Recently it had a reading by an Italian biographer of Lawrence Ferlinghetti, who passed by to sign the books. "It was quite an honor to finally meet him. I've seen him around, of course, and know about him. But that was the first time I've met him."

"I'm very happy to be here in North Beach. I thought about all the different places I could be located —closer to my home in West Portal, Palo Alto, or somewhere in Marin—but I always came back to the fact that North Beach is the Italian neighborhood. So an Italian bookstore had to be located here. I hope to be able to stay here for as long as I can and continue to build the business and bring a little bit of *Italianess* back to the neighborhood."

Libreria Pino is at 548 Union Street, open Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm. Web address: *www.libreriapino.com;* email: *info@libreriapino.com;* phone: 415-242-5590.

Lawrence Ferlinghetti (l) and bookstore owner Joseph Carboni (r). © John Perino

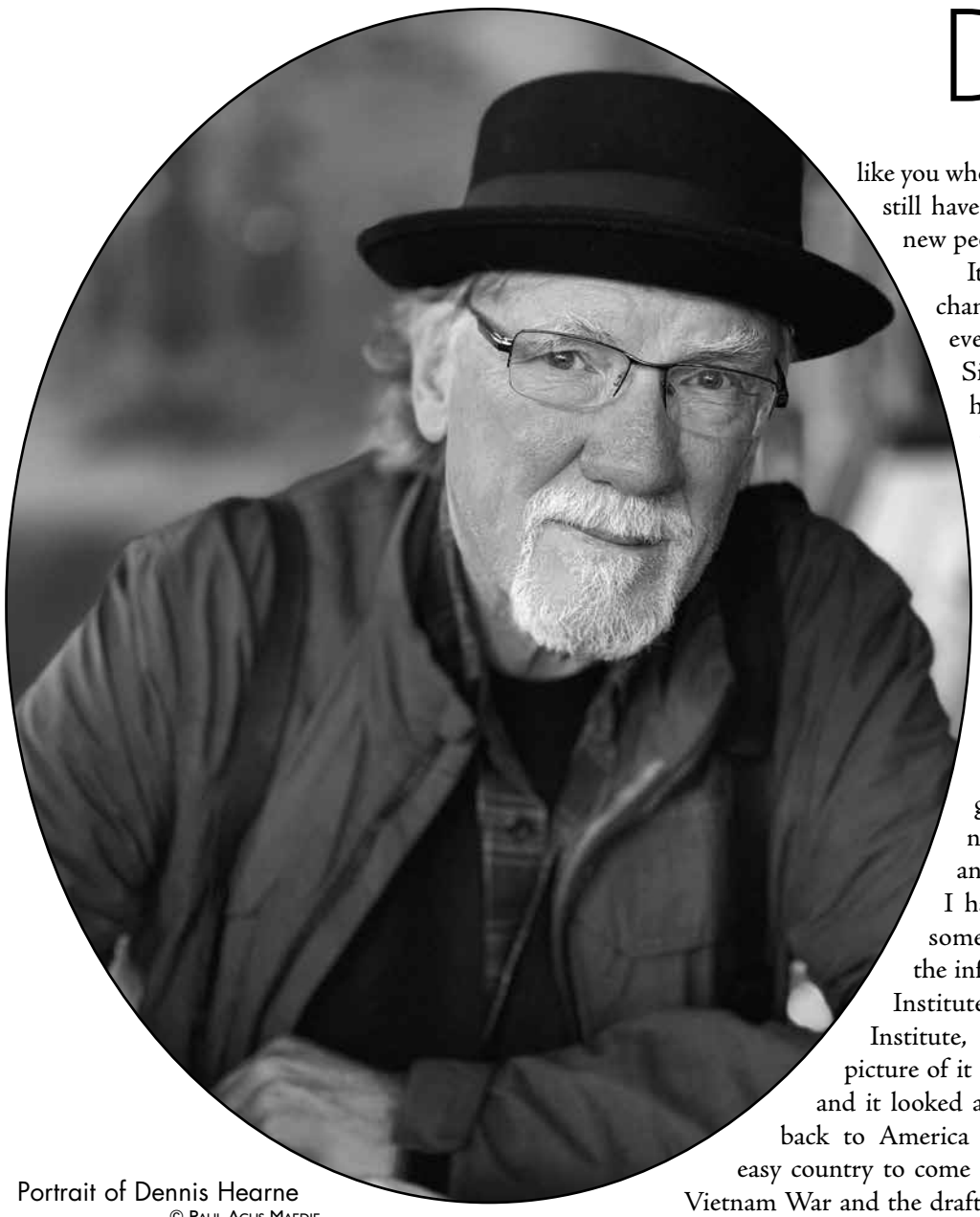
Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss. © Judy Irving

The Life of Lawrence Ferlinghetti. © Judy Irving

Comfy place to read. © Judy Irving

Small space, many books. © Judy Irving

DENNIS HEARNE:



Portrait of Dennis Hearne
© Paul Agus Maedje

by Romalyn Schmaltz
romalyn.schmaltz@thd.org

It was a photographer's primary-colored dream, straight out of Spider-Man: As I strolled toward Dennis Hearne's studio on Vallejo just past Stockton, the streets shimmered with glazes of recent rain and traffic signal prisms. Chinatown was closing down for the night, and holiday lights danced their constellations on the sidewalks. "Green door, colored gels in the window," he'd texted me, so I knew how to find him. "Right across from Central Station." From the get-go, interviewing Dennis Hearne, North Beach's intrepid photographer, felt a bit like meeting up with a superhero you've always known of but had never really known, because he's always in the shadows, watching and waiting for what happens next but seldom taking part in the action itself until the defining moment.

His studio is also an artist's dream—especially that of a San Francisco artist. The first thing you notice is the space. It's so full of room and light, even at night, with subdivided areas for exhibitions, work, and meetings. It feels like a home, and Dennis makes you feel very much at home, indeed. He and his partner, local painter Magué Calanche, have shared it since 1995. Her work graces much of the front of the studio, and her upcoming series of some 40 large-scale paintings tempts me from over Dennis's shoulder.

"When I moved to San Francisco in 1965, rent was something you didn't even think about. It was inexpensive enough not to be a burden on your mind. We were lucky enough to have had that space so we could move around and think and do our own thing. Maybe people like you who have been here awhile still have that freedom, but the new people don't."

It's true that times have changed in San Francisco, even in North Beach. Since Dennis's tenure here has spanned more than 50 years, I asked him to begin, as all superheroes do, with his origin story.

"I'm an Army kid, just like Annie Leibovitz was an Air Force kid, so we both came from the traveling world. When I was in high school, we got stationed in Italy, near Pisa—Livorno—and when that was over, I had to go to art school somewhere. When I got the information from the Art Institute (San Francisco Art Institute, [SFAI]), there was a picture of it taken from high above, and it looked a lot like Italy. Coming back to America in '65, it was not an easy country to come back to because of the Vietnam War and the draft. I didn't even know to expect all this, and then I got back here. At the time, the City was very Italian, visually, so it made sense, and I felt at home."

Dennis moved here there and then and has called it home since. "I took a map of San Francisco and put the Art Institute at the center," he explained, "And then I drew a one-mile radius circle around it, because I figured that if I could live within a mile of the school, I wouldn't need a car. I've still never gotten my driver's license."

"I was going to be a painter, but I ended up never taking a painting class. I opened a book the other day, just by chance, a book of Annie Leibovitz's work. She went to the [SFAI] school, too, a little after I did, but she was there when I was there, and she said, 'Yeah, I went to the Art Institute, and I was going to be a painter, but abstraction was so popular, and we were into reality at the time because of the Vietnam War'—well, maybe not quite 'reality,' but you know," Dennis explains, referencing the observation by Jefferson Airplane's Paul Kantner that "San Francisco is 49 square miles surrounded by reality."

"Jerry Bouchard, he was sort of a catalyst for bringing photographers to the school. Soon after I was there, it went from about 70 to around 300 students, because photography became this thing that was no longer just art but documenting life. We were working with things that were moving in life rather than rocks and trees and things that had already been here for centuries."

We then moved on to the changing face of the neighborhood and that of San Francisco more generally. He echoes the now-commonplace sentiment that the City continues to be a challenging place for artists to come to—or even to remain in.

"When I moved here, rent was something you didn't even think about. It was inexpensive enough not to be a burden on your mind. We were lucky enough to have had that space, so we could move around and think and do our own thing. Maybe you still have that freedom, but the new people don't."

These laments aside, Dennis had his own transitions as a photographer. He even confessed that he hasn't always been in the middle of events—ready at the precise moment—as he's now so known for being. Even superheroes, after all, can start out shy.

Photographing neighborhood people "is pretty recent for me, because I was actually quite a shrinking

Fanny Renoir's "Wednesday night guppies" at the Caffe Trieste. © Dennis Hearne

Leaving Pier 23. © Dennis Hearne

THD Vice-President Romalyn Schmaltz presents our "Hero of the Hill" Award to Photographer Dennis Hearne at the holiday party. © Bob Berryman

HERO OF THE HILL

Post-storm, Telegraph Hill. © Dennis Hearne

violet, and I don't like pointing my camera at people. I think what happened was I stumbled into the Trieste one night. I even think you were there. Café Americano was playing, and it was an environment where you had different types of people, from old poets to your English-as-a-Second-Language group, the local cop Mark Alvarez, and just a mixture of life. It wasn't like going into a bar or a concert hall—it was an environment of different ages and personalities, but they weren't just listening to the band—they were interacting. On the other hand, they were also tuned in to the band, not zoned-out. That kind of got me started working in environments with people rather than in random street shots."

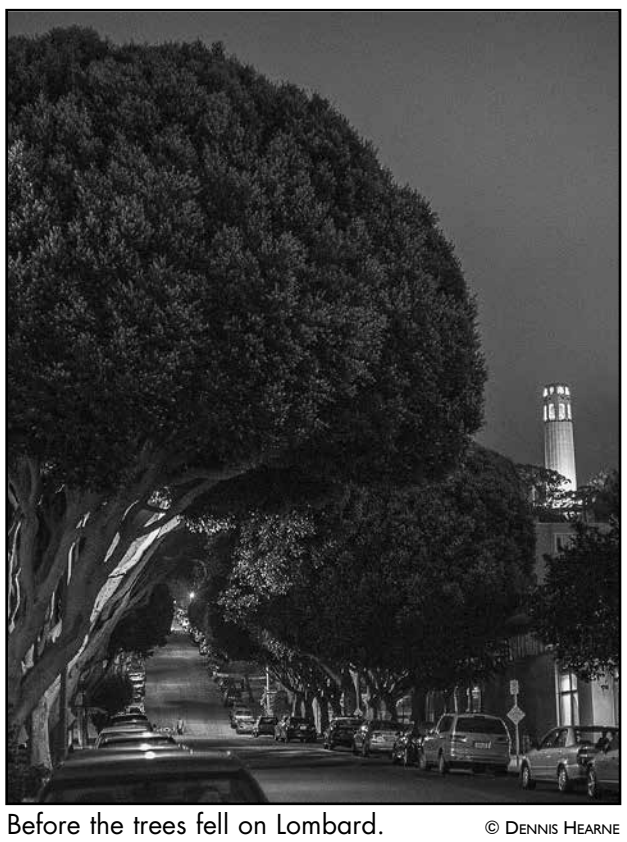
"Street shooting is one layer of photography, but now I have another layer, and that's the people that I know—if you look at photography books, a lot of professionals don't have that thing going on, a sincere connection to a community, so the warmth becomes something interesting to deal with."

Indeed, Dennis has been documenting our lives on the Hill, in North Beach, and very far beyond. At the Telegraph Hill Dwellers' annual holiday party last December, Dennis was fêted with our 2018 "Hero of the Hill" award and was also honored by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. As our own District Three Supervisor Aaron Peskin said as he presented Dennis with a proclamation on behalf of the board, "If it happened, Dennis was there. He's North Beach's visual record, perhaps our greatest photographer and an accomplished artist—not to mention my campaign photographer."

We concluded the evening with friendly hugs and discussions of what's coming up next in the neighborhood, especially since the holiday season was afoot. Indeed, I've known Dennis since I moved here almost 13 years ago, and I've always marveled at not only the quality of his work but also at its depth. He really integrates us as a community, across all strata of lifestyles and personalities. This seems to be his superhero power: not necessarily to bring wildly different folks together—we've been doing that since the Barbary Coast or perhaps before—but to swoop down at the precisely right moment, document it, and then lovingly give it back to us as a gift to the whole neighborhood, to the whole City. For 50 years, he has been a steward of our stories and our memories, and this is why he's the Telegraph Hill Dwellers' 2018 "Hero of the Hill"—perhaps, even, something of a Superhero of the Hill.

When not changing into his cape, Dennis is working on an ongoing series of book projects called Bright Moments, now in its tenth iteration. You can see more of his super-heroic work at dennishearnephotos.com.

Jack Hirschman reads his Syrin Arcane to Lawrence Ferlinghetti. © Dennis Hearne



Before the trees fell on Lombard. © Dennis Hearne

View from Salmon Street. © Dennis Hearne

SUPPORT NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS THROUGH

by Nancy Shanahan and Judith Powell
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jpkthd@gmail.com

What is the Northeast San Francisco Conservancy?

Incorporated in early 2001, the Northeast San Francisco Conservancy (NESFC) is a non-profit corporation created to fund and oversee worthy neighborhood projects in the northeast area of the City that will protect open spaces, trees and gardens, parks, public vistas, and historic resources.

Because NESFC is a qualified tax-exempt entity under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, **all donations to it are fully deductible from state and federal taxes**, and it is eligible to receive grants from other tax-exempt entities and foundations. NESFC can also acquire land and hold and manage conservation and preservation easements.

Helping to Fund THD Special Projects

Because donations to THD are not tax-deductible, NESFC has agreed to act as a fiscal sponsor -- to receive and manage donations -- for some of THD's special projects. These include the following:

THD'S ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

With a start-up grant provided by the San Francisco Foundation, along with private donations and foundation grants, NESFC has acted as the fiscal sponsor for THD's special project to record the oral histories of long-time residents, artists, poets, and business owners with deep family roots in North Beach and Telegraph Hill. Donations and grants are needed at this time to purchase updated video/audio equipment and to train volunteers to conduct professional oral history interviews. To date, more than 20 interviews have been completed, and the list of potential "narrators" is three times as long. The histories of Richard Monaco, Tom Cara, and Virginia and Elios Anderlini are the most recently published.

Most of the oral history transcripts are available online through the San Francisco Public Library's History Center. Both the North Beach Branch Library and the Bancroft California History Library at UC Berkeley have copies. The oral histories of persons of Italian heritage have also been placed in the University of Minnesota Immigration History Research Center.

Although past oral histories have been audio only, all subsequent interviews will be on video when funds are raised to purchase an HD camera, microphone, tripod, and lights. Volunteer interviewers are encouraged to contact THD.

THD'S PARKS AND OPEN SPACE FUND

With a start-up grant provided by Pelican Media, a nonprofit corporation, NESFC acts as fiscal sponsor for this THD project, attracting tax-deductible contributions and grants for the purpose of planting trees and preserving and expanding neighborhood parks, trees, and green spaces on Telegraph Hill.

THD'S VALETTA HESLET GARDEN FUND

NESFC is also the fiscal sponsor for THD's project to improve and enhance the Valetta Heslet Garden – the garden along the unimproved right-of-way on the Greenwich Steps in the Telegraph Hill Historic District. This project, to maintain the beauty of these gardens and natural open spaces, has attracted private donations as well as grants from San Francisco Beautiful and the Levi Foundation. Volunteers provide the labor, and funds raised are used for plant materials and irrigation improvements.

MAINTAINING, PROTECTING, AND EXPANDING THE GRACE MARCHANT GARDEN

Friends of the Garden (FOG)

NESFC acts as fiscal sponsor for the work of *Friends of the Garden* (FOG), an unincorporated association of community members who maintain and improve the Grace Marchant Garden. Planted and nurtured since 1949 by volunteer gardeners, the area is comprised of public and private property along the Filbert Steps on the eastern slope of Telegraph Hill. The project, originally funded by the San Francisco Foundation, has attracted innumerable private contributions. Although all work in the garden is done by volunteers, the funds held by NESFC are used for garden supplies, seeds, bulbs, and plants; professional pruning of trees and plants; irrigation equipment and supplies; horticulture educational materials; and professional consultation.

Extending and Protecting the Grace Marchant Garden

NESFC owns a portion of the Grace Marchant Garden. In 2007, NESFC acquired the privately-owned land between the Filbert Street right-of-way and Alta Street to protect the Garden from a proposed development project.

First, a little background. Some of you may remember that following a 1992 landslide at the western end of Alta Street, the City demolished the apartment building that had occupied the site. Beginning in 1994, the property, which extended from Alta Street north

Views of the Grace Marchant Garden on the Filbert Steps. © Larry Habegger

to the Filbert Street right-of-way, became the subject of an application to build a large multi-level, single-family structure that would have destroyed a significant portion of the Grace Marchant Garden closest to the Filbert Steps. After years of organized neighborhood opposition to the proposed development, the owners granted a conservation easement to NESFC in 2001 that would protect the Garden in the lower, northern-most portion of the lot in return for an agreement by the neighborhood that development could proceed on the upper portion of the lot without protest. A permit was issued for the proposed building but was revoked by the City for failure to proceed in a timely fashion. Then a new building permit application was filed.

Tiring of contention and dreading years of major construction activity and its accompanying impacts on the Garden, nearby neighbors asked the Trust for Public Land (TPL)[1] for assistance to acquire the entire site with the intention of allowing the land to remain in open space and extend the boundaries of the Grace Marchant Garden. TPL successfully negotiated an agreement with the owner, conditioned on raising the funds necessary to cover the purchase price on or before July 1, 2007. As a result of generous donations by many individuals, local philanthropists, and charitable foundations, TPL was able to purchase the property on June 29, 2007 and donate it to NESFC as a permanent expansion of the Grace Marchant Garden. Subsequently, with the help of a City beautification grant and the work of volunteers, NESFC installed a drip-irrigation system and planted trees on the site.

1 The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national, nonprofit, land conservation organization that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, community gardens, historic sites, rural lands, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come.

THE NORTHEAST SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVANCY!

PRESERVING OUR ARCHITECTURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY

North Beach Survey Project

An architectural and cultural survey of North Beach was completed in the mid-1980s by the late Anne Bloomfield and officially adopted by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1999. It represents the most comprehensive record of architecturally-important buildings in North Beach. For many years, the survey served as a tool to guide private individuals and public agencies in decision-making that helped to preserve historic resources in North Beach.

With generous grants and contributions from San Francisco Beautiful, the Bland Family Foundation, Recology, and individuals, NESFC is now leading the effort to create a North Beach Historic District by engaging Michael Corbett, a preeminent architectural historian. He has prepared an extensive report on the architectural and cultural history of North Beach that will be used to support the designation of a proposed North Beach Historic District, noting individually significant buildings.

Russian Hill Survey Project

With a grant from the David L. Klein, Jr. Foundation, supplemented by numerous donations from individuals committed to preserving the historic resources of Russian Hill, NESFC has undertaken a project to complete an architectural and cultural survey of the historic buildings on the west and north slopes of Russian Hill. The results will help to further the goal of protecting these resources from demolition or major alteration.

Northeast Waterfront Historic District Photo Project

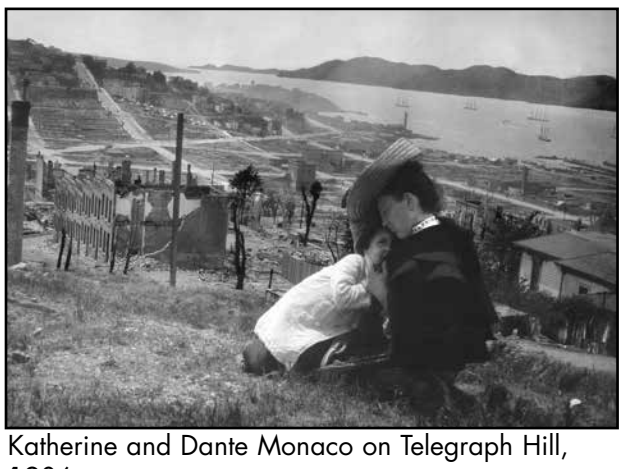
NESFC has obtained digital copies of the original photos taken in the early 1980s of the buildings within the Northeast Waterfront Historic District when it was designated. A project is proposed to re-photograph each building (or street) from the same perspective. We are seeking volunteer photographers to help us complete this project.

Protect Coit Tower Fund

NESFC is acting as fiscal sponsor for *Protect Coit Tower*, an unincorporated association of community members whose goal and purpose is to promote the preservation and restoration of Coit Tower and its historic murals and to increase public awareness and community participation in their preservation. Funds have come from foundation and corporate grants as well as from individual donations. Although Coit Tower is already listed on the National Register of Historic Places, an architectural historian has been engaged to research and prepare documentation necessary to elevate Coit Tower and its murals to the status of a National Historic Landmark.

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

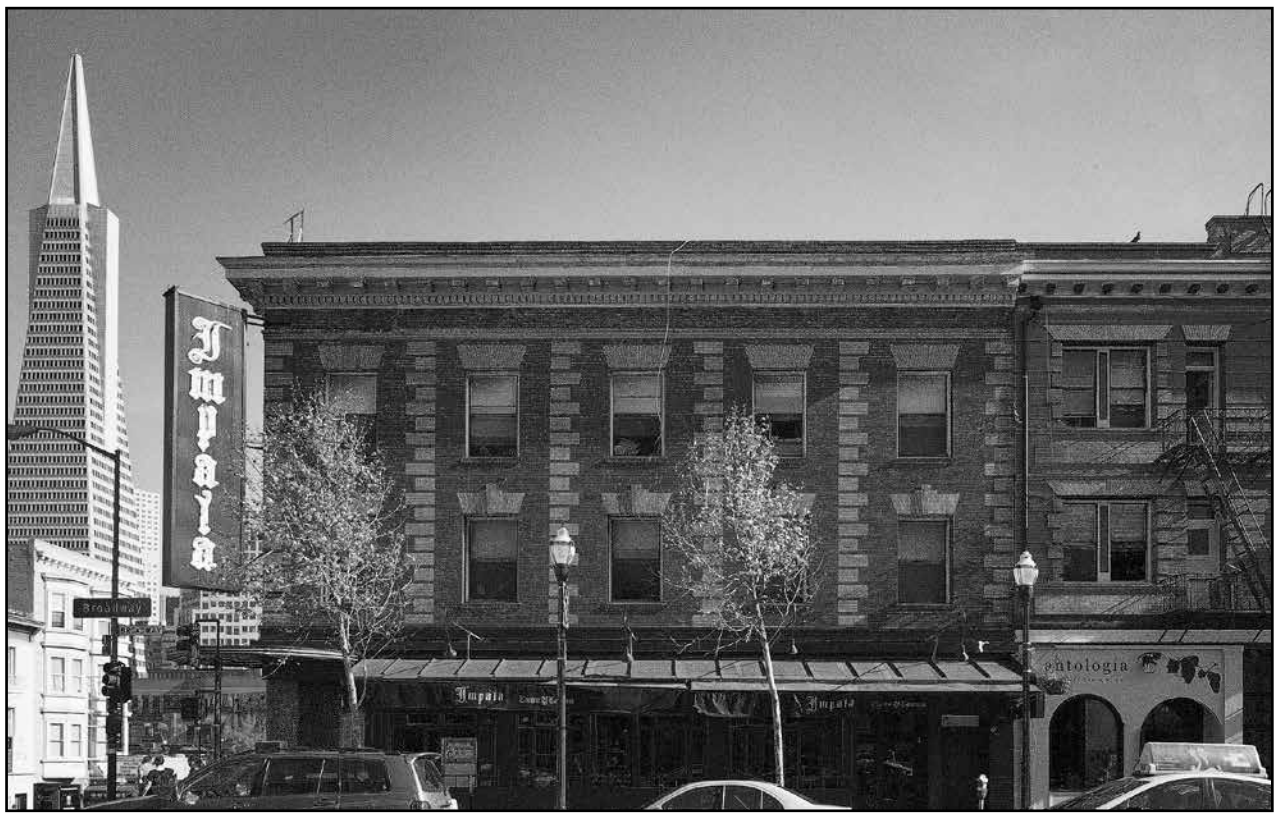
Tax-deductible donations can be made payable to "The Northeast San Francisco Conservancy" or "NESFC" and sent by mail to 470 Columbus Ave., Suite 211, San Francisco, CA 94133. If you wish to designate your donation for any of the special projects listed in this article, please specify the project on your check. Watch for a new website being designed for NESFC.



Katherine and Dante Monaco on Telegraph Hill, 1906. © JB Monaco

Fugazi Hall at 674-678 Beach Blanket Babylon Blvd (formerly Green Street) was designed by architect Italo Zanolini and built in 1913. In addition to a theater, it provided rooms for the Italian Welfare Society, Italian Legion, Italian Sport Club, and the library of the Dante Alighieri Society. For its architecture and association with the early Italian community of North Beach, it has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register for Historic Places. © Dennis Hearne.

Located on the west side of Powell Street between Chestnut and Lombard, this lovely row of Classical Revival flats was built between 1906 and 1915. © Caren Zisson



501-05 Broadway (constructed in 1909), located on the south side of Broadway in an area where the City required "fireproof" (brick) construction after the 1906 earthquake and fire. Because of its similarity to brick buildings in the Jackson Square Historic District, it has been determined eligible for addition to that district. © Dennis Hearne.

FROM THE EDITOR

HOW "WE" CAME TO TELEGRAPH HILL

by Cap Caplan, Editor, The Semaphore
cap.caplan@thd.org

When I moved to San Francisco from the Midwest, my kids went east and I went west … and their 12-year-old suburban rescue dog who'd never seen a leash? You can guess which way she went. Biscuit, a free spirit who'd roamed unfettered through unfenced backyards, found herself outfitted with a harness and leash, tied to parking meters, and muzzled riding MUNI.

Finding an apartment on an earlier trip seemed impossible. I accosted strangers with dogs on the street, hoping to locate a pet-friendly building. Someone suggested I create a dog resume with a few references. Not a good idea, I thought, as Biscuit had bitten the dog next door and—for an encore—the neighbor trying to break up the fight.

Eventually, through a classmate's realtor husband, I secured a place with an astonishing—gasp!—doggie deposit.

Fast forward two years. Since those kids in the east considered my apartment as home, I decided to find larger accommodations. One caveat: I didn't want to stay in the same locale, based upon my experience there. Beautiful area, great location, but I felt lonely as I walked the dog during job-hunting breaks. There were few people and fewer dogs who said "Hello" or stopped to sniff. The only people who talked to me each day were the Getty housemen in their white coats, pruning the shrubs out front. And where, I wondered, is that melting pot I had expected with my move?

I probably needed a new neighborhood, anyway, since Biscuit had had a run-in with Melvin Belli's dog. I vividly remember him—Belli, not the canine—yelling at me to get my dog and go.

I was looking for a condo, not a house, but my realtor found me one that was hard to turn down. The house had a modern interior, much like a New York loft and rare for San Francisco, and with a view of the bay. It also came with 18 liens and a lawsuit, together with a host of hidden issues only to be discovered years later during a seven-year remodel from hell.

The owner was difficult, first rejecting our choice of title company for the closing, convinced the institution and my realtor were in cahoots. And then there was the large mobile that hung in the living room from a very high ceiling. The first set of closing papers, evidently drawn up without a lawyer's advice, included such gems as "I'd give you the mobile if I could" and "I'm sure the artist would want to..." These documents, of course, were rejected and had to be redone and the liens and lawsuit resolved. The legal issues finally all sorted out, the deed was signed over, and the deed was done.

I was home, and, as I was to discover, in more ways than one. This was a real neighborhood!

Friendly people on the street, with and without dogs, Lawrence Ferlinghetti tooling in and out in his red truck just across the street, multiple generations of Italian and Asian-American families, Freddie's on the corner, Tante Marie Cooking School a few doors away (and where nighttime walks could be synchronized with the professional baking students sampling pastries hot from the oven), and so much more. *This* was the San Francisco experience I had always imagined.

My first encounter on the block I'll never forget. Wandering down the sidewalk, trying to get a sense of the neighborhood, I came upon Alfredo Pisciotta in his pristine white apron, sitting outside his corner upholstery shop. He reached out to Biscuit and introduced himself, welcoming me to the area, even though I hadn't yet decided what to do. Mr. Pisciotta motioned me inside, calling out to his family. I met his three sons and his daughter Rita, all laughing and telling jokes. They regaled me with stories about growing up in North Beach and the chickens, rabbits, and sometimes lambs they raised on the lot where the building now stood. Rita told me it was still a great place to live.

Later, after Biscuit and I had actually moved in, we went by the shop almost every day. And, each time, Mr. Pisciotta invited us in. Inside, he reached for a slice of Italian cold cuts from a plate next to him and held it out to Biscuit. The meat was devoured in about two seconds, and the grateful dog inched up for more.

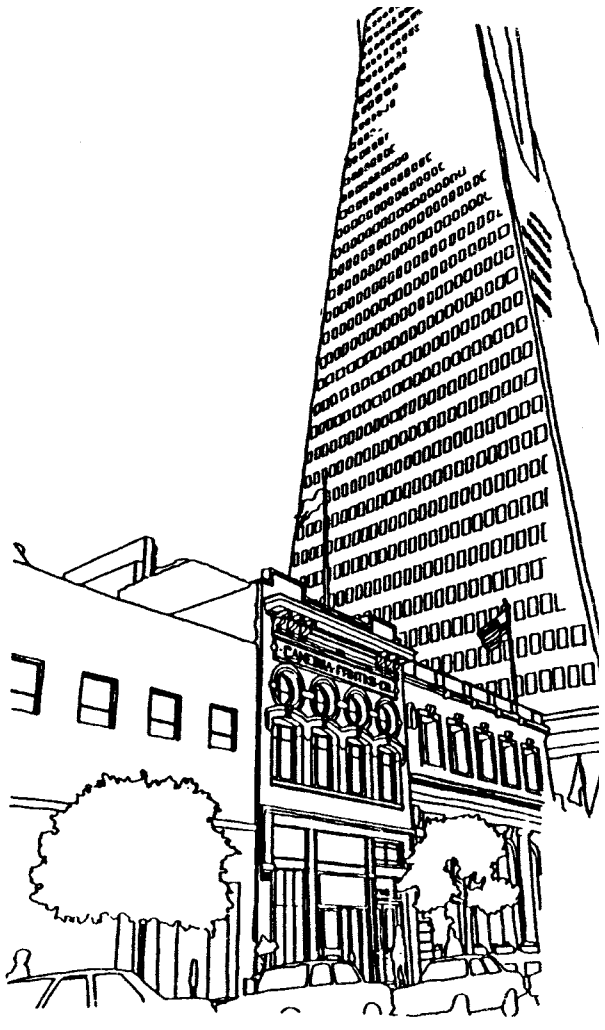
Enter Joey, the Pisciottas' large cat, growling and hissing. Biscuit backed away and then, surveying the situation, lunged forward and snatched another piece, with Joey ready to pounce.

This scenario played out almost daily. But one day it changed. Joey had had enough, perhaps practicing lunges himself when we were not there. As Biscuit approached, the cat let out a shriek, leapt almost on top of her, and chased her out of the shop, across the street, and down toward a highly-trafficked intersection.

Luckily, Joey stopped and headed back. Biscuit, too, had found her place.

NORTH BEACH FIRST FRIDAYS

Stroll around Columbus and Grant Avenues on the first Friday evening of each month to see what's new in the neighborhood. You'll find an open-house welcome at art galleries, boutiques, and local watering holes, as well as at pop-ups and cultural events. Canessa Gallery, 708 Montgomery St. at Columbus *www.canessa.org* Gallery 1317, 1317 Grant Ave. Grey City Gallery, 250 Columbus Ave. at Broadway/Pacific/Saroyan Alley *greycitygallery.com* Live Worms Gallery, 1345 Grant Ave. *www.sflivewormsgallery.com* Macchiarini Creative Design, 1544 Grant Ave. *www.macreativedesign.com* Modern Eden Gallery, 801 Greenwich St. *www.moderneden.com* Mule Gallery, 80 Fresno St. *mulegallery.com* North Beach Bauhaus, 703 Columbus Ave. *www.nbbauhaus.com* Telegraph Hill Gallery, 491 Greenwich St. *telegraphhillgallery.com* Remind yourself how much fun it is to live in such a vibrant corner of the world by rediscovering the thriving local art scene while you support the creative community behind it. Events vary from month to month, so check the North Beach First Fridays website (*http://northbeachfirstfridays.com/*), Facebook page (*https://www.facebook.com/northbeachfirstfridays/*), and Twitter feed (*https://twitter.com/NB1stFridays*) for the latest openings, closings, and events.



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PARKS & TREES REPORT

OPTIMISM FOR PARKS IN 2019

by Don Raichle, Committee Chair
don.raichle@thd.org

Washington Square Park playground is open. © Don Raichle

Approaching San Francisco from either the Golden Gate or Bay Bridge, Telegraph Hill can't help but be noticed. Our island of green stands out in contrast to the surrounding city. The Hill's mature canopies surrounding Coit Tower are a feature unique to San Francisco. What we tend to forget is that it's more than luck that we are surrounded by hundreds of mature Eucalyptus, Cypress, Olives, Pines, and Poplars. Over the years, development pressures, indifferent maintenance, and old age have put pressure on our local groves. While the neighborhood more often than not takes this landscape for granted, occasional significant threats to its health and permanence come to the forefront of local awareness. The resulting public interest, concern, and sometimes outrage, have, on more than one occasion, helped preserve the trees that define the character of Telegraph Hill and North Beach as a whole. This was the case again in 2018.

The year started off with plans for improvements to both Pioneer Park and Washington Square Park. At Pioneer Park, discussions between Recreation and Parks and neighborhood representatives resulted in plans to begin long-overdue maintenance to the trees surrounding Coit Tower. The goal was to restore canopies to their natural form, resulting in better health and framing, not blocking views to the Bay and the surrounding City. At Washington Square, completion of the new playground was in sight, and plans were approved to initiate desperately-needed repairs to the irrigation and drainage systems in the park. While controversial due to park closure during construction, general local support of the irrigation/drainage project was obtained, based on promises of an expedited construction schedule and a higher level of agency oversight of the project.

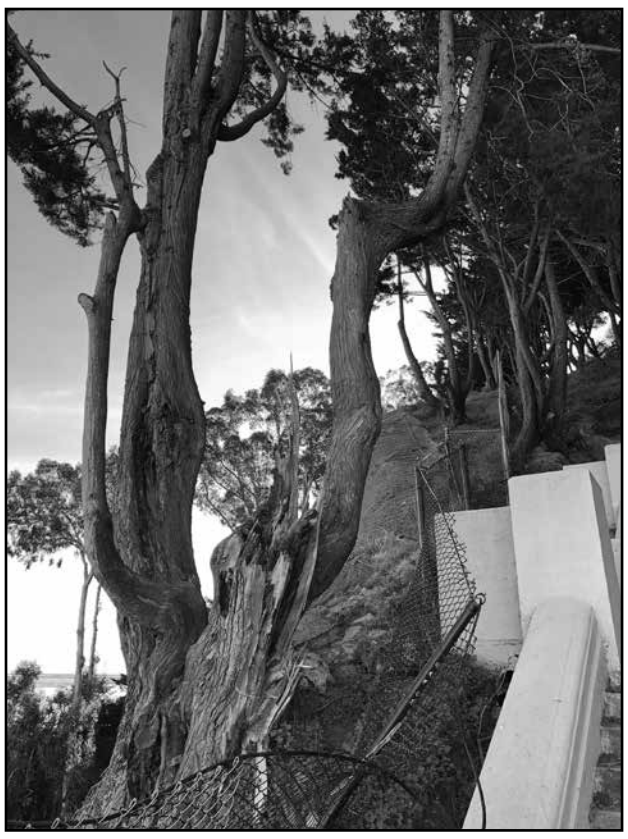
So far, so good, but then things took a turn when one of the square's beloved mature Stone Pines along Stockton Street partially collapsed and had to be removed. This was followed by the removal of a mature Ficus street tree along Columbus Avenue. In its place was a big hole in the canopy of the adjacent tree, a "missing tooth" in the overall street tree planting with no "official" plan for replacement or next steps. Once again, poor communication by Public Works left a lot of unanswered questions. Were the block's trees planned to be all taken down and replaced or disappear one by one? And if removed, replaced by what? Public Works has made the case that all the Ficus trees along the edge of the park are a hazard and need to be removed and replaced. Whether this is warranted is a matter of much local concern and debate. Given the neighborhood's strong desire not to lose any more mature trees at the Square, the Department needs to do a much better job of (1) explaining why these trees need to come down and (2) showing that alternative approaches to improve their health have been explored. Beginning to remove them without a clearly-defined plan communicated to the neighborhood wasn't a good start. This was made worse at the end of the year by notifications going up on the trees for their removal without advance warning going out to the public.

The next unexpected loss came from the removal of the mature pine grove at the corner of Columbus Avenue and Filbert Street due to damage occurring during construction of the new Washington Square playground. While fault for this is still being sorted out, the loss of the trees has permanently changed the appearance of the Park. As noted in last fall's *Semaphore*, Recreation and Parks attempted to have a quick-fix solution that THD, The Friends of Washington Square, and North Beach Neighbors requested be slowed down and properly studied. Thanks to unified action and facilitation by Supervisor Peskin, Recreation and Parks, along with Public Works, initiated a process to involve the neighborhood and develop an optimal replacement-planting design. The agencies reached out to neighborhood groups in a workshop and promised alternatives would be developed for their review. Unfortunately, that last step never happened. As noted in this issue's President's Corner, Park and Rec made an internal decision to plant Hornbeam trees to expedite finishing construction. As we can all see, the replacement trees have been planted. While the product of a truncated process, the trees selected do respond to concerns raised in the workshop that visual screening from Columbus Avenue be provided and that the trees selected be deciduous to allow the playground to receive summer shade and winter sun.

With all this tumult now in the past, there may be reason for optimism for our parks in 2019. While public vigilance is still warranted, potential exists that the much-needed improvements to our two major open spaces as originally planned in 2018 may get back on track. Work has already begun within Pioneer Park thinning tree canopies and removing those that are unhealthy and structurally unsound. The fact that trimming of many trees has gone on mostly unnoticed reflects their improved appearance and health, and the need has been reinforced by the recent collapse of a Cypress on the north edge of the Park. Tree removal will be more apparent and likely to raise concerns; it's unfortunate that long-neglected maintenance has left so many plantings in poor health. However, the new, more appropriate plantings (new native/drought-tolerant shrubs and trees) should provide the Park with significantly improved, long-term tree health, habitat creation, and enhancement to its signature views. To ensure that this work is done properly, THD and others will continue to press Recreation and Parks to provide outreach to the neighborhood so that we can be assured the work is done properly and appropriate plantings planned for and implemented within the Park.

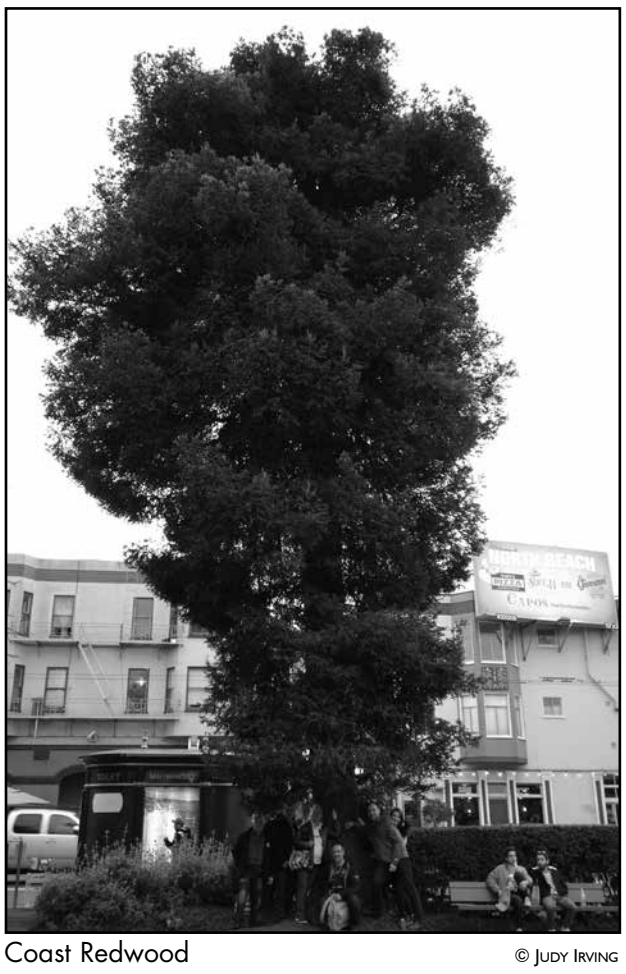
Washington Square Park should also end 2019 in much improved condition, assuming construction goes forward on the irrigation and drainage project. Your author agrees with the Friends of Washington Square that this is still an essential undertaking for the long-term health of the Park. However, there is local consensus that this work should not begin without guaranties of vastly-improved agency oversight to ensure the work is completed properly and on schedule. Currently, this work is slated to start in the Spring. As noted in the President's Corner, THD and other local groups have gained the significant attention of all agencies involved, so that's a start. In the case of the street trees surrounding the Square, Public Works has recognized there is much local concern regarding their removal. By the time this report is published, there should already have been a public hearing on the status of these trees and the agencies' plans presented for comment. Hopefully that "discussion" will lead to a greater consensus on an appropriate path forward. However, the Department must show it is making a good-faith effort to listen to the neighborhood and develop a plan based on what is in the best interest of the Park and community. At a minimum, staff has agreed that any removal/replacement will be coordinated with the work to be done within the Park, helping to ensure proper/complementary street tree species' selection and minimizing construction impacts to the neighborhood residents and businesses.

The parks that help define our neighborhood constantly struggle to be the passive open space contrasting with the surrounding urban development while still supporting intensive public use. They must also balance the public need to be available and open always but still receive essential infrastructural upgrades that can restrict access. In the end, everyone probably agrees that agency mistakes and indifference shown to our open spaces in 2018 didn't support these contrasting needs well. However, public awareness and appreciation for what is happening within our parks have greatly increased. The result should be greater scrutiny by the public as planned improvements go forward. The lesson of 2018 is that this oversight is essential. Hopefully, a higher quality of management and accountability from the agencies involved will result as well. If we're not just lucky but vigilant as well, 2019 has a chance to realize some meaningful enhancements to our essential open spaces.



Pioneer Park limb failure. © Don Raichle

Note to Rec/Park:
Don't you dare cut these down!



Coast Redwood © Judy Irving

Monterey Cypress © Judy Irving

TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

HELP BEAUTIFY AND PROTECT THE CHARACTER OF TELEGRAPH HILL

Please consider making a lasting commitment to the neighborhood you love. Include Telegraph Hill Dwellers Gift Planning Project in your estate planning.

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SOCIAL & PROGRAM REPORT

by Bob Berryman, Committee Chair
bob.berryman@thd.org

Neighbors and friends celebrated during the Telegraph Hill Dwellers' annual Holiday Party at the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club on December 8. More than 60 members enjoyed tasty hors d'oeuvres, with wine donated by Coppola Winery, as they gazed over Washington Square from the third-floor balcony.

THD awarded its coveted "Hero of the Hill" award to Dennis Hearne in recognition of his many years photographing the Hill and his extensive volunteer service. Supervisor Aaron Peskin presented a Certificate of Honor to Dennis that further documented his accomplishments.

A special silent auction of a signed, first edition book, *San Francisco's Telegraph Hill* by David F. Myrick, was donated by William Kostura and won by David Becker. David explained his love of San Francisco history and said he would add this book to his collection.

Our next social event will be on Tuesday, February 12 from 6 to 8 pm at Belle Cora, 565 Green Street. Stop by this no-host gathering, and enjoy a glass of wine or beer along with live jazz that begins at 7 pm. I hope to see you there!

© Dennis Hearne

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EAT ✹ DRINK ✹ SHOP ✹ LIVE
local

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS, SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2018

by Mary Lipian, Recording Secretary
mary.lipian@thd.org

September 2018

New THD Board Officers

The Board welcomed Cap Caplan as the new Semaphore Editor and Nick Ferris as the new Treasurer, replacing Joe Luttrell.

Italian Athletic Club 100th Anniversary Celebration

With THD's support and recognition, the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Italian Athletic Club took place on September 15.

Seawall Safety Bond Proposition A

Jon Golinger, Waterfront Committee Chair, discussed the proposed Seawall Bond Measure appearing on the City's November 2018 ballot as Proposition A and authorizing the City to issue $425 million in bonds toward the earthquake retrofit and flood protection of our waterfront. The funds would be repaid through property taxes. Jon pointed out that because the measure allows 50% of the cost to be passed on to tenants, the Tenants Union has expressed opposition. Prop. A also requires that a citizens' oversight committee be formed.

Washington Square Park – Loss of Ten Mature Trees

The Board discussed the tragic removal by the SF Recreation and Parks Department (Rec/Park) of ten mature trees damaged during the construction of the new playground in Washington Square. As the trees were larger than six inches in diameter, notice and approval by the Historic Preservation Commission should have occurred, but did not, before the trees were cut down. Although THD and Friends of Washington Square requested an explanation from Rec/Park as to the how's and why's of the incident(s), no response was forthcoming. The Board agreed that the City's plans to close Washington Square for its proposed major irrigation and drainage project should be delayed until (1) an adequate explanation for the loss of the mature trees is provided, (2) the destroyed trees are replaced with others of an acceptable size and species, and (3) a long-term tree-maintenance plan is in place.

October 2018

2018 Hero of the Hill Award

The Board unanimously agreed to honor Dennis Hearne with THD's 2018 "Hero of the Hill" award for his superb and artistic photography of North Beach characters and architecture, which he has so generously provided to THD over many years. The award will be presented at THD's holiday party.

Presentation by Sponsors of a Cannabis Dispensary on Columbus Avenue

Duncan Ley and his team presented a proposal for a cannabis dispensary at 312 Columbus Avenue (near Broadway) in the approximately 3,000 square-foot space currently occupied by "Little Darlings." As only one cannabis dispensary will be allowed in the neighborhood, the group asked THD for its support—should the proposed cannabis dispensary at 1331 Grant Avenue, first in line for approval, be rejected by the Planning Commission. After discussion, the Board agreed not to take a position on either proposal until additional information was available.

Washington Square Tree Replacement and Planting Options

The Board learned there was still no response from Rec/Park to THD's query letter about the Department's proposed tree replacement and planting options.

New THD Members Event

On Tuesday, October 30, the Board held a cocktail party at the Maritime Wine Tasting Studio on Columbus Avenue to welcome and become acquainted with new THD members.

Replacement of JC Decaux Public Toilets

Planning and Zoning Chair Stan Hayes referred the Board to THD's September 12 letter to the Historic Preservation and Planning Commissions opposing SF Public Works Department's proposed new design for JC Decaux's public toilets and kiosks at Coit Tower and Washington Square. THD in its letter urged the development of site-specific designs that would be compatible with these landmark sites and that the City involve the public in developing the designs.

Extension of Hours at 412 Broadway (Penthouse Club)

Although THD, Barbary Coast Neighborhood Association, 455 Vallejo Street Home Owners Association, and Golden Gateway Tenants Association sent joint letters opposing the Penthouse Club's application to extend its hours from 2:00 am to 4:00 am, the Planning Commission appeared poised to approve the extension, conditioned on a set of metrics to measure the impact on the neighborhood for a six-month period. The Board agreed that a more powerful, coordinated opposition effort would be necessary at the Planning Commission hearing on October 25 to defeat the hours' extension.

November 2018

Homelessness: A Discussion About the Crisis

Nick Ferris, THD's Treasurer, helped to organize a panel discussion jointly hosted by THD and North Beach Citizens, scheduled to take place on December 6 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the North Beach Citizens Resource Center, 1034 Kearny Street. Featured panelists include Kristie Fairchild, Emily Cohen, Rachel Rodriguez, and Dianna Tomasello.

Annual Dinner for the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods

The Board agreed to sponsor a table at the annual dinner of the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods where newly-elected District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman will be honored. Thanks to Directors Stan Hayes and Paul Webber for their generous contributions to make this possible.

THD Holiday Party

Bob and Anna Berryman, Chairs of THD's Social and Arts & Culture Committees, respectively, announced plans for THD's Holiday Party to be held December 8 from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm at the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club. The cost was determined to be $35.00 per person with wine to be donated by Coppola Winery.

NORTH BEACH CITIZENS

Finding Lasting Solutions for San Francisco's Low-Income and Homeless Individuals.

Our 18th Annual

SAVE THE DATE

TASTE OF ITALY SPRING DINNER

April 28, 2019 at Saints Peter and Paul Church

Our Street Beautification Team gives back to the neighborhood by collecting over 3,000 bags of trash off the streets annually.

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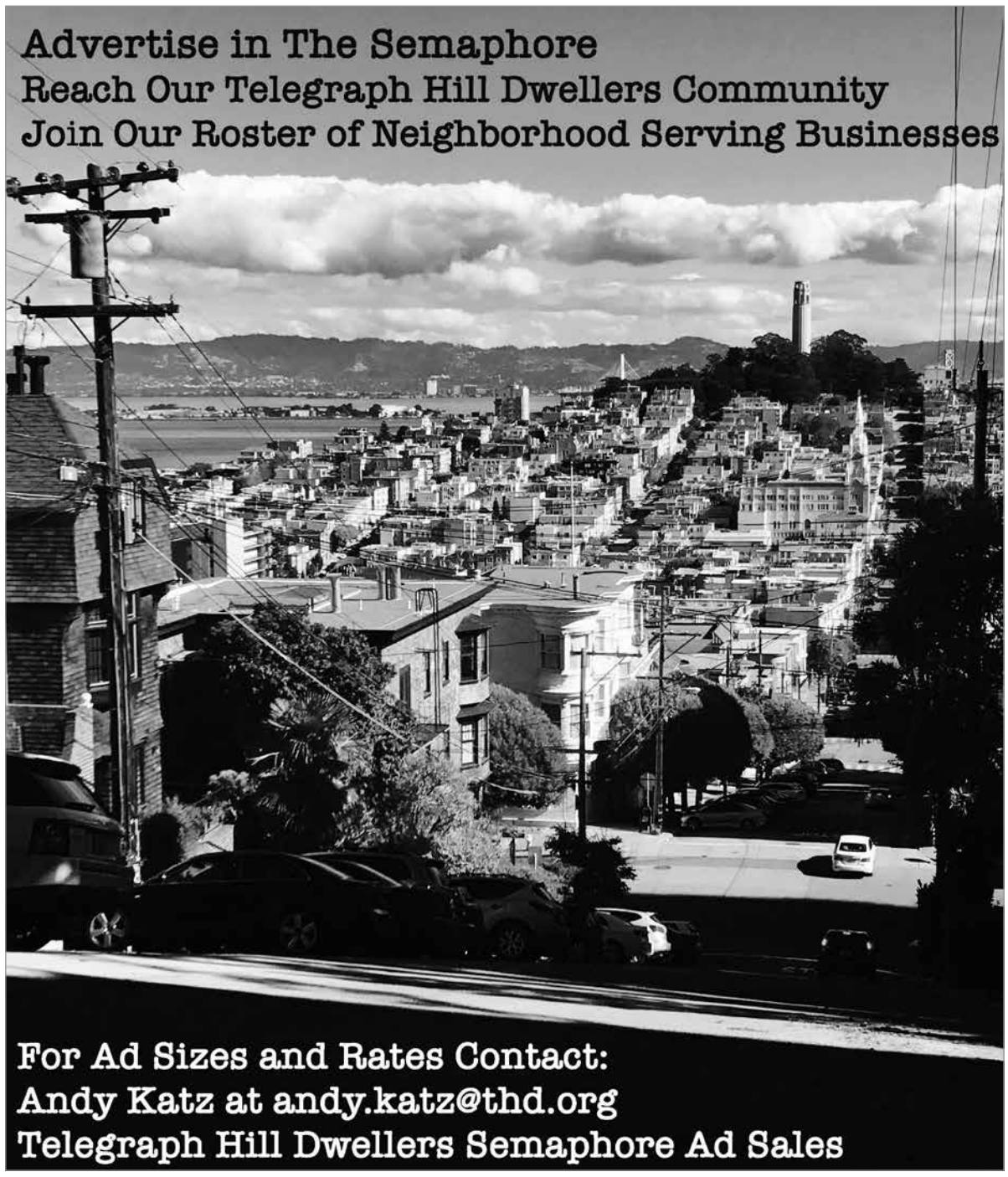
TREASURER'S REPORT

by Nick Ferris
nick.ferris@thd.org

As many readers know, THD operates on a fiscal (rather than a calendar) year running from April 1 through March 31. All THD board members and officers are volunteers. The current budget was proposed, discussed, and unanimously approved in May 2018; it aims for break-even in which advertising, dues, and other revenues balance out costs for *The Semaphore* and Planning & Zoning as well as additional expense. This objective has been met during the first nine months of this fiscal year, and we have a net income of $4,813.

THD is accepting applications for members to join our Finance Committee, which will be evaluating ways to reduce costs as well as to find new sources of revenue for more social and educational events for the neighborhood. If you're interested in joining, please reach out to *hello@thd.org*.



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Budget: Nick Ferris nick.ferris@thd.org
Membership: Al Fontes THDmembership@gmail.com
Oral History Project: TBD
Transportation: Howard Wong and Michael Pedroni
howard.wong@thd.org and michael.pedroni@thd.org
Parks & Trees: Don Raichle don.raichle@thd.org
Planning & Zoning: Mary Lipian and Stan Hayes
mary.lipian@thd.org and stan.hayes@thd.org
Semaphore: Cap Caplan (Editor) cap.caplan@thd.org
Social & Program: Bob Berryman bob.berryman@thd.org
Waterfront: Jon Golinger jon.golinger@thd.org
Communications: Al Fontes, Katie Hopkins, Leah Lovelace, Sarah Kliban
al.fontes@thd.org

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE MEETS last Thursdays.
Call for time and location. 986-7070, 563-3494, or 391-5652.

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Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods: Paul Webber
Friends of Washington Square Liaison: Don Raichle
Neighborhood Network Liaison: Gerry Crowley
Northeast Waterfront Advisory Group Member: Jon Golinger

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DIRECTORS

Term: 2018-2019
Open position
Katie Hopkins**
Andy Katz**
Sarah Kliban

Term: 2018-2020
David Becker
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WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS!

There's no better way to be connected to your neighborhood and be a voice of the hill than by joining Telegraph Hill Dwellers, today.

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Membership includes:

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Individuals..... $35
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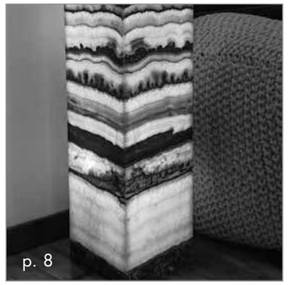
p.1

p. 5


p. 8

p. 12

THE SEMAPHORE

#224 Winter 2019

FEATURES and COLUMNS

Chinatown: A Dramatic Journey (Part Two) by Howard Wong 1
President's Corner: Moving On, Looking Back by Judy Irving 2
Meet New Board Member David Becker 3
Call for Memories for *Tales from North Beach* 3
Supervisor's Report: 2018: the Year That Was by District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin 4
Lights! Camera! Action! by Sarah Kliban 5
Nan Roth: Watchful Waterfront Warrior by Jon Golinger . . . 5
Panel Discussion on Homelessness by Nick Ferris 6
Planning & Zoning Report by Stan Hayes 7
We ♥ Union Street Shops!
Igneous Theory by Judy Irving 8
Libreria Pino by Mark Bittner 9
Dennis Hearne: Hero of the Hill by Romalyn Schmaltz 10
Support Neighborhood Projects Through the Northeast San Francisco Conservancy! by Nancy Shanahan and Judith Powell 12
From the Editor : How "We" Came to Telegraph Hill by Cap Caplan 14
Optimism for Parks in 2019 by Don Raichle 15
Social & Program Report by Bob Berryman 17

THD BUSINESS

Board Meeting Highlights by Mary Lipian 18
Treasurer's Report by Nick Ferris 19
Board of Directors and Committees 19
Become a Member. 19

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THE VALENTINE ISSUE